△ Optimistic Prospect
△ Baton

Korea Today

5
Juche 90 (2001)

Endless stream of people flow to Mangyongdae where President Kim IL Sung was born and spent his childhood

The First Day of the Sun in the New Century Commemorated Grandly

People come to President Kim IL Sung's statue on Mansu Hill to Pay a tribute.

Music entertainments of youth and students in Pyongyang and the 50,000 members of the youth shock brigade.

Pyongyang citizens accord a warm welcome to the Participants in the 19th April Spring Friendship Art Festival, and a scene of the art performance.

The national joint meeting of the Korean Children's UnionOrganizations.

The 14th Mangyongdae Prize International Marathon Race.

The holiday evening of Pyongyang youth and students.

The third Kimilsungia Show took place on the occasion of the Day of the Sun.

Day of sun, Holiday of Humankind

On April 15 the Korean people and the world progressives grandly commemorated the 89th birthday of President Kim IL Sung, the first Day of Sun in the new century.

The Korean people who did not forget him even for a moment at all times held various functions in commemoration of the Day of the Sun, with ever-growing strong yearnings for him surging in their hearts.

People from all walks of life visited the Kumsusan Memorial Palace where the President lies in state and his statues in various parts of the country.

The Kumsusan Memorial Palace was visited by senior Party and state officials, chairmen of friendly parties and leading officials from organs of armed forces, government bodies, ministries, national organs, social organizations, etc.

A floral basket in the joint name of the Central Military Commission of the Worker's Party of Korea, the Central Military Commission of the WPK, the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the President of the Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK and the Cabinet of the DPRK was laid before the statue of the President there.

The floral basket sent by leader Kim Jong IL was visible before the statue of the President on Mansu Hill in the capital city of Pyongyang.

A national meeting took place in Pyongyang. At the meeting Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the SPA of the DPRK and member of the Political Bureau of the WPK CC made a report. He said:" President Kim IL Sung was a brilliant thinker and theoretician who fathered a scientific guiding idea and clearly indicated the most correct way for carving out the destiny of man and accomplishing the cause of independence of the popular masses. He was an illustrious past master in the art of leadership and as a veteran of world statesmanship who afforded such a fine example of worldwide significance as creditably carrying out all the tasks of the revolutionary struggle of various stages all forms which were set before humankind in our era and who provided a reliable milestone for the practical struggle for leading the cause of independence of the popular masses to victory. He was the benevolent father of the people, who regarded the noble idea of 'Believing in the people as in Heaven' and 'My devotion is for the people' as his maxim and converted the whole of society into a harmonious great family where everyone is united firmly with revolutionary comradeship and obligation, he himself sharing good times and bad with the people throughout his life and showing paternal love for them, and who turned all the people into the independent driving force of the revolution boundlessly faithful to the socialist cause, and our country into powerful state of single-hearted unity. The historic exploit of special value and great significance among his revolutionary exploits is that he successfully solved the issue of succession to the revolutionary cause, thus providing a sure guarantee for the ultimate victory in the Juche cause.

The reporter said that next year is the year which will mark the 90th birthday of President Kim IL Sung and that all the people ought to make an all-out, single-hearted effort in order to accomplish at an early date the President's cherished desire to make sure that the whole nation enjoy a happy life in a reunified, rich and powerful country.

Next Choe Pyong Jo, head of the delegation of Korean residents in Japan, addressed the meeting.

On the square of the Kumsusan Memorial Palace took place a function of soldiers of the KPA three services to pay homage to late President Kim IL Sung and pledge loyalty to him and Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL, a loyalty-pledge meeting of members of the Kim IL Sung Socialist Youth League, and a national joint meeting of the Korean Children's Union organizations.

Seminars and workshops were held by the national authorities, working people's organizations, and the Ministry of People's Armed Forces: various gathering were called for poetical and musical recitals, and a story-telling of the President's childhood: report meetings were held by provincial, city and county administrations, industrial complexes and KPA units.

The third Kimilsungia Show was a great success; the ten-day film show involved all the cinema houses across the country to project the President's revolutionary life and achievements; entertainment evenings, art performances, fine art exhibitions, an issue of souvenir postage stamps and other events took place.

The 19th April Spring Friendship Art Festival staged a good performance to add a special tone to the holiday atmosphere.

What most excited the Korean people in their holiday making was the fact that Supreme Commander Kim Jong IL on April 15 visited the KPA unit No. 2629 that had been awarded the " O" June Hup-led 7th Regiment" title and congratulated the men and officers of the KPA.(O Jung Hup and his regiment set an outstanding example of defending Commander Kim IL Sung in the anti-Japanese warfare-Tr.)

The progressive people from the five continents of the world, too, commemorated the Day of the Sun with deep reverence for the President.

The King of Cambodia sent a floral basket to the DPRK embassy in Phom Pehn. Many party and state leaders, visiting delegations to the DPRK on the occasion of the Day of the Sun, diplomatic missions and embassies and representatives of international organizations in Pyongyang presented Kim Jong IL with floral baskets, congratulatory letters and gifts. Many visiting delegations, and cultural and friendship officials from embassies of different countries in Pyongyang placed floral baskets at President Kim IL Sung statue.

With the formation of the Polish preparatory committee for the commemoration of the Day of the Sun on January 10 this year as the beginning, more than 50 countries worked in the same vein, electing high-ranking officials of the political and pubic circles chairmen or honorary chairmen. What is noteworthy in the meetings to form such preparatory committees is that they decided to commemorate the 90th birthday of President Kim IL Sung which falls on April 15, Juche 91 (2002)-to say nothing of this year's anniversary-on the worldwide scale, and called upon the world progressives to do the same.

The committees fixed commemoration periods and

held colorful events such as rallies, lectures, film shows and photo exhibitions.

Mass media introduced the President's life and exploits to a great extent.

Every Efforts Goes Into Cutting Open the Korean Way Through New Century

In the first year of hopeful new century, Koran people are continuing their advance in high spirit.

A joint editorial " Let us open our way through the new century in the spirit of the victorious' Arduous March!'" was published by Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Josoninmingu, the daily of the Korean People's Army, and Chongnyonjonwi, the organ of the Central Committee of the Kim IL Sung Socialist Youth League to celebrate the new Year 2001. in hearty response to the slogan " Let us glorify this year as a year of fresh onward march in the building of an economic power in the 21st century!" which was advanced in the joint editorial uninterrupted innovations are currently being made in all sectors of the national economy.

Before anything else, many good results are being registered in the sectors of the power, coal and metal industries and rail transport which were pointed out as the most important sectors in socialist economic construction this years.

The officials and workers under the Ministry of Power and Coal Industries are striving to increased coal production as much as possible while steeping up the construction of Thaecchon Power Station No.3 and the other large-scale hydroelectric power stations and normalizing electric-power production at a high level.

The officials, workers and technicians at the Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, one of the leading electric-power production centres, are pooling their creative wisdom and strength in conformity with the demand of the century of enormous change, the century of creating. They have completed overhauls of boilers in a short time, refashioned the air current-style coal crusher and other kinds of production equipment of the coal pulverizing system on modern lines, computerized production processes and introduced many technical innovation proposals in order to put production onto a high, steady footing.

Sensible of responsibility for and taking pride in having taken upon themselves one of the most important sectors in socialist economic construction this year, the workers at the February 8 Jiktong Youth Coal Mine, the Chonsong Youth Coal Mine and all other collieries under the Sunchon Area Coal Mining Complex are working hard to boost coal producitoin. From the outset of this year they are monthly producing 1.3 times as much coal on the average and 1.6 times at maximum as compared with closing days of the previous year. The coal mines have built up large cutting faces in those areas which are advantageous for mining and highly promising. On this basis a lot of effort is being put into constantly raising the monthly productivity at every cutting face and into transporting coal without delay by taking good care of the equipment of the coal conveyance system and carrying on technical management properly in this sphere.

A fresh upsurge is taking shape in production at factories and enterprises in the metal industrial sector, including the Chollima Steel Complex and the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, a famous iron production center in the northern region of our Republic, is channeling energy into technical reconstruction, the main link in the economic work at the present time, has put the management and operation of the sintering system, the fore-going process in production, and all other production processes onto a high scientific and technological basis and is making efforts to systematically lower the norm of consumption per ton of pig iron. In this way the complex is doing economic organization work effectively so that it will be profitable, thereby putting production on a normal footing.

The Songjin Steel Complex is also striving to markedly increase the production of steel by introducing rational working methods and new technology into production along with keeping existing equipment in a good state of maintenance.

Poster" With a Great Hope of the New Century!"

Optimistic Prospect

The Korean people are pushing ahead with the work of building a strong economic power commensurate to the 21st century.

It was pointed out in the joint editorial of this year that the metal industry is one of the vital sectors of the socialist economic construction.

The metal sector is making a steady effort to put the existing foundation in good order and enhance its might to the full and modernize itself with technical updates.

The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the Musan Mining Complex are of great importance in developing the metal industry-the former is a leading iron and steel production center and the latter a concentrated ore production center feeding the former.

The imperialists' vicious manouvres to isolate and stifle the country affected the operation of the two complexes quite badly: a lot of machines were in abnormal operation, thus failing to work to their full capacity and consequently making their production stagnate.

Having survived the "Arduous March", the workers at the two complexes are, in the first year of the new century, all exerting themselves to fulfill their mission as the vanguard in the building of a powerful nation.

In order to put production capacities into full play, machines out of order are being repaired on a full scale.

Selecting subjects to be repaired properly and finishing their repairing within the scheduled time are scrupulously organized, for example, the coke oven and the hydrogen generator in the Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex and the rotary drilling machine, excavators and heavy-duty lorries in the Musan Mining Complex.

Technical transformation is being promoted at the same time.

The Musan is introducing varieties of innovations including those for improving drill ends and enhancing the quality of ores.

The Kim Chaek is striving to replace old sintering furnaces with advanced ones and refashion the system the oxygen plant in a short spell.

Other enterprises in the sector including the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and the Chollima Steel Complex are making energetic efforts to put in good order their existing facilities including furnaces, turn irrational processes into rational ones, make up incomplete processes and transform the backward parts of processes into advanced ones.

The work of reducing the time of steel-making and the consumption of electric-making and the consumption of electric power and increasing capacities of heating furnaces with less amount of heavy oil is also promoted as planned.

All these things are being conducted in reliance on domestic efforts and techniques: the scientists, technicians and workers concerned are speedily solving problems through their close creative cooperation.

The management officials emulate the officers of Korean People's Army to make a breakthrough in every work in the scrupulous, creative and devoted manner of work.

The prospect is optimistic.

Innovations are also being brought about in rail transport.

The railawymen at the Chongjin Railway Bureau are making new progress in rail transport. The volume of average daily freightage these days in more than 1.5 times greater than before.

The Chongjin, Cholsong and other locomotive corps have increased the number of locomotives in actual operation 1.2 times by readjusting and reinforcing their repair bases and repairing locomotives faster and in a more qualitative way. In addition, they are reducing the time needed for the coupling and uncoupling of wagons as much as practicable by making the engine drivers perform their responsibility in their work.

A lot of effort is being put into unit-train transport of important materials. The trains for centralized transport of concentrated ore, coal, mine props and farming materials are being composed and operated to carry raw and other materials and fuel to the producers on time.

The construction of the Kaecon-Lake Thaesong water-way, one of the grand nature transformation projects for increasing agricultural production, is well under way. It was started in November Juche 88 (1999) and is now being vigorously pushed forward thanks to high degree of enthusiasm of shockbrigaders from every province and solider-builders.

The task for forming the waterway with a total length of hundreds of ri has been carried out on the whole and cutting of water tunnels is being completed on by one.

Besides, the agricultural people are working hard to enlarge the double-cropping area by sowing high-yielding choice seeds and raising wheat and potato as the first crops.

They are all afire with a determination to bring forth good fruit in the first-year farming of the 21st century in the Taehongdan spirit and the Taehongdan people's way of work which even make flowers come into bloom on the stones.

The breeding of catfish and other kinds of fish is currently being encouraged and modernly furnished stockbreeding bases are being built up one after another. In Pyongyang, the modernization of chicken plant is being propelled forward. The Mangyongdae, Sopho, Ryongsong, Sungho and Hadang chicken plants and assorted feed factories are being reconstructed on modern lines. All production processes of these large chicken plants will be operated by computer.

A series of successes have been gained in the development of science and technology which are the powerful force in the building of a socialist economic power.

The scientists and technicians at the Academy of Sciences are exerting themselves to smoothly solve the tense power problem including the matters arising in the normal operation of a new type of boiler installed in the Pyongyang Thermal Power Complex. Great progress has been made in introducing a wide variety of measuring apparatuses into the iron works, steel plants, power stations and other important factories and enterprises.

(To be continued on page 8)

Animated Workshop

The Pyongyang Steel Plant situated in the suburbs of the capital city of Korea is proud factory which has produced and supplied steel materials needed in the construction of the capital for decades of years.

In particular, it made a satisfactory supply to the projects including the construction of dwelling house and Youth Hero Motorway in the most difficult period of the " Arduous March".

This is an important year to make a fresh onward march in the building of an economic power in the 21st century. The factory is now assigned to firmly support the construction of tens of thousands of dwelling in Pyongyang.

The management and workers are making strenuous efforts. The rolling workshop as well as other units at the factory is registering great success in production of round steel of various sizes.

The workshop overfulfilled combination of the meticulous organized by the shop officials and devoted endeavours of the workers.

A rational and scrupulous distribution of manpower to heating, drawing, rolling, product treatment and other processes is arranged. Thorough check-ups and repairs of all the equipment including the feeder, blower, roller and cutter-they are major means of production-are done regularly.

Pak Yong Sok and his work-team members are always the standard bearer. The advanced working methods they actively introduced in production shortened the time of feeding and made all the processes move into top gear; the daily production records rose up to 120 per cent.

The workshop is promoting the technical upgrading of the production equipment as well. Taking a big share in it is the workshop manager Ham Yong.

He has already made dozens of inventions and innovations for over two decades, and contributed a worthy share to the modernization of equipment and technical development of the workshop.

This year too, he already introduced several technical innovations, which are taking effect.

" The modernization scheme fro the production basis is a very important task in our workshop. In order to strengthen our economic foundation to a high level, we must not idle even a moment, but think and study hard with a determination to hit a higher target.

" Everything is still in short supply. To produce much more steel with smaller consumption of materials, it is essential to refashion the rolling equipment at our workshop," he said.

From the outset of this year, he is remoulding the production processes one bye one.

The workshop set target of modernizing the heating process within this year.

When this scheme is fulfilled the amount of production at this workshop will reach a higher level.

Cha Ho Nam

Girls Flying Century After Century

The 9th Massy International Circus Festival held in France in the first January of the new century awarded the first prize to the aerial feats " Flying Girls" and the technical prize to the " Duet Swimming" which are both from the DPRK. Thus the detachment of the Pyongyang Circus won the President Prize of the Republic of France, the top prize of the festival.

The chairman of the organizing committee of the festival said:" Korea's aerial trapeze is the best in the world. How wonderful it is! It is too charming to describe it. The Korean works have elevated our festival high enough… This shows that the Korean art is the best in the world and the Korean government pays deep attention to cultural development. Without state concern and investment it is unthinkable that such a fine art is created. Maybe the top prize of our festival will go to the Korean entertainers from now on."

The "Flying Girls" that earned such a favorable comment was also awarded the Best Prize at the joint circus stage which was held in Italy in February last year.

Though born in the sufferings of the "Arduous March" the" fantastic and charming girls" are soaring higher and more energetically in the first year of the new century when a new way is being opened for the building of a prosperous nation.

They are now making still harder efforts to create a better artistic work.

Taking the Van in Railway Transport

The West Pyongyang Locomotive Corps is in the west of the DPRK's capital.

This corps is making innovations to carry out the tasks set out by the joint editorial for the new year.

It has rather a long history in our country and always takes the lead in the fulfillment of national economic plane.

It is carrying out its transport assignments with credit, based on materials and technical means for the management, repair and operation of electric locomotives.

This corps takes charge of freight carriage in three railway sections and passenger transport in two railway sections. It has a computerized driver's workteams in charge of transport, a shop for keeping locomotives in good working order, a repair shop and preparation and other shops.

Though many things are in short supply, its officials, locomotive drivers and workers are working hard to carry more load without accidents.

The corps set the targets for one-to ten-million-km accident-free run and worked hard. It carried more load than haulage and exceeded its transport plan by 10 percent in the first quarter of the year. The crew of locomotives "Red Flag" Nos. 6036 and 5318 always lead the van.

Its officials and locomotive drivers strictly observe the operation regulations and apply rational operations and apply rational operation methods and haul more load every day.

In the course of this, they carried several hundred thousand tons of load more than haulage and made effective use of locomotives' stay at railway stations for their short run, with the result that they carried several ten-thousand tons of load scores of locomotives could haul.

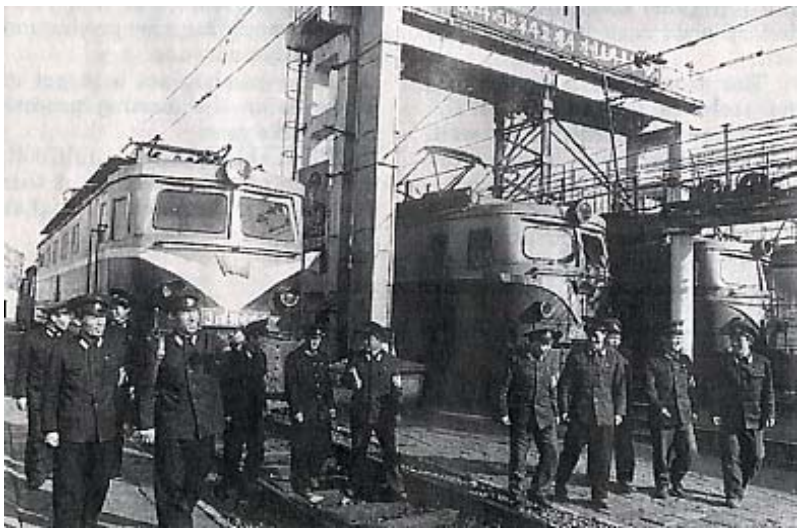
The repair service shops keep several ten thousand parts of scores of kinds ready to pout locomotives in good working order and ensure their schedule run. They shortened the time putting locomotives in working order by nearly 30 minutes.

The repair shop succeeded in making sintered contact sliders instead of graphite one and lengthening service life considerably.

Six Labour Heroes and Merited Locomotive Drivers are taking the lead in transport since the first day of the year.

Today the locomotive corpsmen are hard at work to haul more load.

Sim Chol Yong



They have fulfilled their haulage plans.

The Korean people are full of confidence and their future is optimistic, as they have risen up in a body, burning with patriotism, and united singleheartedly around leader Kim Jong IL.

Mass media abroad reported in detail the contents of the joint editorial at the beginning of this year. The Chinese newspaper Renmin Ribao, Chita Aperta Broadcast of Italy, the Pakistani PPI News Agency, the Iranian newspaper Iran News, the Japanese newspaper Yomiuri Shimbun, the uyanese state radio broadcast and so on conveyed its contents under the titles" Three leading newspapers in the DPRK publish a joint editorial fro the new year and call for building a strong and prosperous nation, " Year of onward march in building a strong and prosperous nation", etc.

As they gave wide publicity to the substance of the joint editorial, the Korean people will cut open their way through the new century without fail.

They will decorate 2001, the first year of the new century, as a year of fresh onward march in the building of an economic power in the 21st century.

Labour Nurtures Her Talent

Choe Yong Suk (center) takes comments on her work.

Choe Yong Suk, 42, is a worker at the Pyongyang Higher Education Books Printing Plant. She commands great respect as writer of juvenile poems. She has so far written a great many children's songs and poems which are favoured by the children considerably.

Her selection of poems" Proud Songs of the Taeri Forest" brought her the "June 4 Literature Prize" at the contest sponsored by the Central Committee of the Korean Writer's Union in Juche 89 (2000). The prize as instituted to honour the fact that leader Kim Jong IL established the mass literature production guidance system on June 4, Juche 66 (1977). The prize is accessible only to non-professionals.

Choe Yong Suk loved writing from childhood. As a member of the composition club at the senior middle school she made many nice poems such as" We Embroider the'250-Mile Journey of Learning'"

When asked of her hope after graduation, Choe told he teacher that she wished to be a writer. She wanted to become a writer, but it was a "Tree she could hardly climb", she thought.

The teacher spoke to her, "Talent is not always a born gift, if you are afire with ardent patriotism and enthusiasm, you will be able to make a big hit as a writer. And you'll be able to become more than a writer, who knows?"

She was so elated that she took what she had written earlier to the Central Committee of the Korean Writers' Union. The official-who was in charge of training new writers-studied her compositions with care and gave a good comment; then he stressed the need to know the reality while receiving literary lessons with a high aim.

Choe was impressed by his words. She changed her mind of going for higher schooling. " I'd better settle myself on the field of labour and experience the realities while learning the writing," she told herself and chose a job at the plant where she has worked so far.

Choe was 26 years old when a young man from a construction company came to see her. He "declared" to her surprise, "I'm going to be your life partner."

" What has made you think so when you know nothing about me?" she asked.

"I'm attracted by your poems," he answered. " They taught me to have a high aim of life, to cherish love for the future." He was with Choe for her wish to devote all the life to making happy images of the children by means of poetry. The girl's heart now yielded to the boy's.

once she wrote a children's poem" New Song from River Pukchon". She made a draft, but could not give it readily to her examiner. For she had written the poem without any personal visit to the power station on River Pukchon which was the theme of the piece. She was conscience-stricken. She wanted to go to see, still the thought of her husband and two sons detained her at home. Then the husband urged her to go." You need not worry about the home, my dear. If only you can produce nice writings, you can stay away from home even some years instead of some months." He was quite receptive to her intention.

Choe was moved by his kind words and made up her mind to make a really nice piece as he wanted. It was in mid-winter that she went to the river in Janggang County, Jagang Province, in the northern part of the country. There she followed the footprints which Kim Jong IL, the great leader of the nation, had left in his difficult journey to open a highway to people's paradise. In the course, she came to coin the new word "laughter wheel" affording all kinds of pleasure, to metaphorize the water wheel of the power station. Her endeavour elevated the poem up to be worthy of the first prize at a contest of the Korean Writers' Union.

In recent years of Korea produced many heroes of the times; non-professional, were so attracted by their spiritual traits as to set them as models of htie rwritings. Choe Yong Suk was no exception. She went to see Ri Taeri Workers' District in Kangdong County.

There she was welcomed by a vast expanse of a lush forest that attested the hard work of the ranger. Choe was very excited and wrote a poem at a stretch. But the very poem was eclipsed. The professional who was in charge of her, began to ask her questions after reading her poem: how old the lyric's hero was, if he had the grandfather, if he had ever been a leader of the Children's Union organization, and so on. Many of those questions were so far from the theme of her poem that Choe was perplexed.

The professional taught her again, saying, " Literature is a science of the human being. If you want to know a person, you've to understand his inner world."

That encouraged Choe to visit the forest in Kangdong again. This time she asked Hero Ri Ung Chan's daughter and her friends to accompany her in looking around the forest. Not a bird, not a stone, not a rising moon, she missed. The children's poem born in this course was the very " Proud Songs of the Taeri Forest" which won the "June 4 Literature Prize."

Some of the comments made by professional on her writings are:

"Her description is very vivid and mirrors the juvenile mind."

"Her sentences are rhythmic and lively."

"They help to feel the pulse of the times."

Her colleagues at the plant refer to her as the "plant's treasure". As they put it, "she dearly loves her plant, her friends, the children and the literature; she tries hard to get a better access to the children's inner world. Surely she will turn out better rhymes in the future."

Yun Yong Gum

Jong IL Peak in Four Seasons

If you visit Mt. Paektu, the ancestral mountain of Korea, you will find a log cabin in the Sobaek Stream valley, which our people call leader Kim Jong IL's native home in mount Paektu secret camp.

A high peak rises behind his native home and its name" Jong IL-bong" inscribed on three large pieces of granite on the upper part of its front mirrors the Korean people's desire to convey his august name through generations.

All the year round there spread wonderful natural scenes around the peak, as befitting the place where Mt. Paektu's brilliant commander was born.

Winter scenes

Really marvelous is the snowstorm on Mt. Paektu in January.

If you climb the peak, you can see the blinding snowstorm bumping against the top of the cliff on the right and then spiraling up above the peak, several times even in a day. But there is not a stir of air around his native home in the valley-so quiet that snow heaped up on the trees remain snowflakes until it melts of its own accord and frostworks beautify the surrounding scenery of the Sobaek Stream of crystal-clear water. It seems as if the Jong IL Peak were sheltering them from the violent gale.

Spring of blessing

Spring creates its own peculiar scenery in this area.

A hundred metres away from the top of the peak there is a field of evergreen rhododendron 40 to 50 square metres wide. Very beautiful leaves and yellow flowers vyingly rise up above snow that covers the field.

At the same time pink blossoms of azalea appear around the red letters Jong IL-bong.

This attractive natural scene that can be seen in spring moves the hearts of the beholders.

Scene of mystery in summer

Further conspicuous is the skyscape of mystery over the Jong IL Peak in summer. In July, in particular, sheets of clouds gather and soon disappear and heavy rain in replaced by clouds as while as cotton floating in the sky-as if to show the mettle of General Kim Jong IL who turns misfortune into bliss, adversity into prosperity.

Quite attractive and wonderful is also a double rainbow that appears in the clear sky over the peak immediately after the rain passes off.

Autumn in flames

The Jong IL Peak in autumn is worth seeing in September in particular. If you see it from the front yard of the native home, it looks like a burning torch.

Even in this season the native home remains enclosed with a primeval forest of over-green needle-leaved trees. Contrary to this, the peak wooded with alder and red maple trees looks like a burning torch.

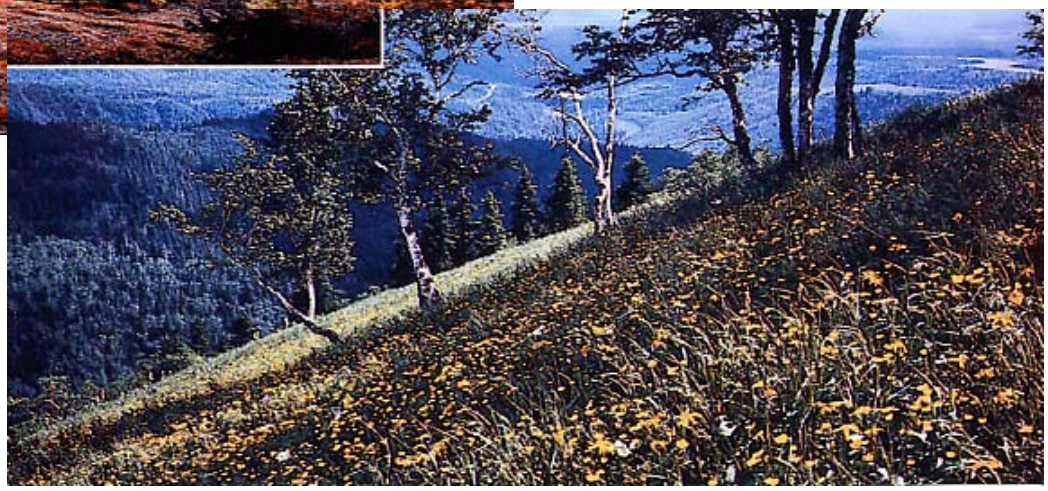
Indeed the Jong IL Peak deeply impresses its beholders every season.

Flowers by Lake Chon of Mt. Paektu

Plants in Mt. Paektu

The blooming season on Saja Peak

A blueberry field



Flowers in Komsan.

Autumn has come.

The Leader and the Working Class

May Day is the holiday of the working class of the whole woeld.

The Korean workers are greeting the significant holiday at the time when they are bringing about an upswing in production, taking a big step from the outset of the first year of the 21st century. They recollect with deep emotion the “ Arduous March” and the forced march that lasted for years.

In that period, they operated machines even going hungry; they built medium and small power stations tightening their belts in order to ease more or less the power strain of the country; they did all in their power to give the country what little help they could, not caring about their cold homes and little electric supply to their homes but asking for electric power and materials for work; in this way they erected monumental edifices in different parts of the country-in the years their meals were very often some grains of maize and salt.

Where did the exertions the working class made at the time when the Korean revolution was undergoing severe trials come from?

It was on May Day over ten years ago. The pilots and other crew members from a civil aviation group were making the holiday outdoors, when an emergency mission was ordered.

Soon a big passenger plane took off. At the arrival place it received a patient in a critical condition from a helicopter which had stopped en route because of an unexpected bad weather. Then it took off again.

The patient rescued by something like a war-time emergency call was an ordinary worker from South Hamgyong Province. It was really surprising to all the crew.

What touched them greatly was the fact that leader Kim Jong IL was personally commanding all that rescue operation.

Here is another story.

An emergency meeting took place under Kim Jong IL’s personal chairmanship. Put on the agenda was the problem of graphite stains on the faces of workers at a time.

After the meeting, he called a senior provincial official to his office. It was already after mid-night.

As if to help his leaden heart, Kim Jong IL undid his upper jacket button, and said that he could not bring himself to sleep after hearing of the bad working conditions of the mine. After some silent walk, he neared the window to open it wide.

Conscience-stricken, the official apologized for his mismanagement.

Now Kim Jong IL admonished the official:

“ Our workers are good people who will not complain about their difficult work and bad working conditions.

“ Our workers and people are really nice and praiseworthy; they consoled and supported our Party even when they had to work against hunger in the difficult situation of the country.

“ The workers are the leading class of the revolution-this is more than an academic theory.

“ The Workers’ Party of Korea believes they are the leading class of the revolution or the pillar of the revolution.

“ We have failed to take care of the workers the Party trusts in to such an extent. This is our big mistake.

“ When the day breaks, you, together with other officials, go to the mine and make an apology to the workers on behalf of the officials.

“ The workers have the right to judgement. So if they express understanding for your misconduct with broad mind, you’ll be forgiven, and if not, the punishment will be unavoidable.”

The story was immediately known to the public, making a great sensation.

Such a story can be heard anywhere there are workers.

One spring day several years ago Kim Jong IL remarked:

What our workers think first of all is the country’s wellbeing, and this thought inspires them to overcome all sorts of difficulties. Our working class stands in the van of breaking difficulties, and they are the hardcore of the popular masses.

The trust in and care for the working class shown by the leader enabled them to keep up strength in their work.

Upholding the optimistic slogan” push ahead through the thorny path in high spirits!” even in the days of the “Arduous March”, they erected monumental edifices in many places of the country. We owe this inexhaustible strength to Kim Jong IL who lives in the hearts of the Korean working class.

Ryu Kyong Hui

Quotes From Kim Jong IL

"Conscience and obligation are noble virtues peculiar to a human, and the source of the spiritual power that instigates his voluntary and laudable endeavour."

"Conscience is not so much a private sense as a moral sense of responsibility for the society and the people. He who does not have any sense of responsibility for the society and the people will forfeit his worth as a social being."

"Only the honest and proud conscience of a revolutionary can bring peace to his mind

Unique Single-Hearted Unity

Recently I visited the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the first time.

The moment the plane penetrated into the skies of Pyongyang I grew excited. Because a happy thought came to my mind, the thought that I can see with my own eyes the reality of Korea, a country of singleheartedness, where all the people are united solidly.

I have not seen or heard much about Korea but I know Korea from long ago, which I could feel on my arrival.

I gained much energy from the monumental structures in Pyongyang and the Korean people who are advancing under the uplifted banner of socialism despite the incessant pressure and blockade of imperialists. I came to think deeply over what is the source of it. It was the rock-firm unity between the Workers' Party of Korea and the masses of people and the ideo-volitional unity of the leader and the people.

Korea is the powerful nation of single-hearted unity.

The Korean people are marching forward, upholding the banner of socialism, surmounting valiantly many-fold hardships and trials, as they are steered by the great leader Kim Jong IL and
united as one behind him.

Through the mass gymnastic display and art performance on the 55th birthday of the WPK, we could see vividly the genuine looks of Korea, the country well-known with army-first politics of Kim Jong IL, the country where the leader, the Party and the masses are united as an integral whole.

Whenever scenes of the mass gymnastic display and art performance altered, we rose to our feet in excitement and applauded again and again.

The single-hearted unity of the Korean people brought about by the army-first politics, the politics of benevolence and the all-embracing politics of Kim Jong Ii, is fully manifested in the mass game and art performance.

Some countries and parties of Europe were taken in by renegades as they had not achieved the ideo-volitional unity of Party ranks nor struck roots among the masses. For this, the people are undergoing all sufferings and misfortunes.

I know well about the tragedy they are suffering. So, the reality of Korea baffled my imagination—in Korea all the people put an absolute trust in the WPK and follow it and the WPK depends on them, loves them infinitely
and settles all problems, relying on their strength. In this way Korea is fulfilling gigantic objectives by the strength of unity and is advancing victoriously, tiding over the bottlenecks through the singleheartedness run through with ideo-volitional and moral unanimity.

The key to all victories, feats and advancement in Korea is the singleheartedness.

What the progressives of the world envy and admire is the singleheartedness of Korea. The enemy fears Korea's singleheartedness more than atomic bombs.

Nowhere in the world the singlehearted unity of this kind can be found.

Singlehearted unity in Korea, the unusual social relationship, is not only due to the fine social system. It is the brilliant fruition of leader Kim Jong IL's politics of benevolence full of love and trust. This unity is invincible, as it is alien to any physical coercion and ideological offensive and it is unique, as it cannot be found in any encyclopaedias of the world.

Chajalled Abucid Clair Rizu,
Executive Member of the Anti-Imperialist Front,
France

From Kim IL Sung's Reminiscences " With the Century"

Greeting the Spring in a Foreign Land

(Continued from the previous issue)

In the days in the Paektusan secret camp and the training base in the Soviet Far East region, I thought of arranging proper wedding ceremonies for my comrades-in-arms after the liberation of the country. But I found that I could not do as I had wished because, though the country was liberated, the people were not well-off and the food problem was acute.

One day immediately after liberation Jang Si U called on me and protested that a veteran guerrilla intended to spend money belonging to the Party committee of South Phyongan Province on a man's wedding. When I asked him who the veteran was, he said it was Kim Song Guk.

I called Kim Song Guk to my office and ordered Ri Ul Sol to disarm him. I then reprimanded him, asking who had authorized him to meddle with the finances of the provincial Party committee.

Almost in tears, he said, "I wanted to prepare a wedding suit, quilts and a party for Son Jong Jun. As he has no relatives, what can he do if we do not help him?"

Nevertheless, I criticized him severely.

"I know full well that it would be nice to prepare these things for Son's wedding. But are we in a position to do so? If you had recalled even once the days when we held weddings without proper food, you would not have asked the Party for money. The country is in dire circumstances, so observe with care and be prudent in your behaviour, as befits a veteran guerrilla."

Though I reprimanded him, I felt my heart ache. Frankly speaking, how laudable it was for Kim Song Guk to try to arrange a proper wedding ceremony for a comrade with whom he had shared weal and woe, joy and sorrow!

Many of the veteran guerrillas got married in the liberated motherland, but they all held their weddings in a simple way. This always weighed on my heart. This is why Comrade Kim Jong IL arranges parties for their 60th and 70th birthdays, and sends gifts to them.

Kim Jong Suk, however, did not enjoy such things and passed away in her early 30s, leaving behind her this photo. It was by mere chance that she and I posed for it. But for the care of our revolutionary comrades-in-arms, she would not have been able to leave behind even this photo.

When I was making preparations to leave in command of a small unit, my comrades called on me one day and suggested having photos taken. They said that as there was no knowing when we would meet again, we should leave photos as souvenirs. They added that all that I needed to do was to pose, because they had borrowed a camera.

Going outside in my uniform, I found Choe Hyon waiting for me. It was still chilly, but spring air could be distinctly felt everywhere.

Leaning on a tree on which spring tints were emerging, I posed with my comrades-in-arms for photo, as souvenir of our meeting in Camp South after a long separation as well as on the occasion of departing on small-unit actions.

Others posed in groups of twos or threes.

At that time, some women guerrillas, getting wind of our photography session, ran to me and said they also would like to get their photos taken. So I posed for a few photos with them. They then suggested to me that I should have a photo taken with Kim Jong Suk. Hearing this, she grew shy and hid herself behind the backs of the women guerrillas. They pushed her forward to my side, smiling all the way. In order not to miss the moment, a comrade clicked the shutter.

That was probably the first time in my life that I had posed with a woman comrade individually. For Kim Jong Suk and me, it was as good as a wedding photo.

In those days we were still young and vivacious. We had many dreams of a bright future. Though we greeted the spring in a foreign land, we were full of confidence and in high spirits.

For both of us, it was an unforgettable first spring that we greeted after our wedding.

As I wanted to remember that spring forever, I jotted down on the back of the photo: "Greeting the spring in a foreign land, March 1, 1941. At Camp B."

I never imagined that this photo would remain in history to be displayed in such a large museum as the Korean Revolution Museum. We fought for the anti-Japanese revolution for 20 years, and it is regrettable that not many photos of this period remain. So, I am grateful to those comrades who suggested photo-taking to me.

Kim Jong Suk wore her hair bobbed, like the other women gnerrillas did . But you cannot see her hair style in this photo, for all her hair is covered by her cap. There was a reason for this.

That spring I went to Manchuria and the homeland with a small unit. As I was passing Hunchun across the Soviet-Manchurian border, I felt my feet growing warm. At first I took no notice, thinking that it was the result of the long march. But at each step I felt something warm and soft on my soles. So I pulled off my shoes, to find in them liners made with hair. Only then did I remember that Kim Jong Suk had been wearing her cap even indoors, and I realized that she had cut her hair to make the liners. She must have worn her cap because she was too shy to show her short hair.

Those who posed for the photos with me that day are now all gone—An Kil, Choe Hyon, Kim Jong Suk. There were many of them, but they have gone, leaving me behind.

The young tree which An Kil, Choe Hyon and I leaned against to pose for a photo must have become a giant tree by now.

I don't know how Camp South has changed. I should like to take time off to visit it some day.

Even after liberation, Kim Jong Suk attended me with all her heart.

How meticulous she was in taking care of me! She would change my collars once every few days. She starched them and smoothed them by pounding them with a club. This was because only pounded collars became soft and did not feel stiff to the neck. If starched collars are ironed, they become stiff,

injuring the skin of the nape and restraining the free movement of the neck. She would pound the collars with a club only when I was not around. She did not do it even once when I was at home, lest it disturb my thinking.

I will tell you one more anecdote related with her faithfulness.

On the eve of national liberation I went to Moscow to participate in a meeting to discuss the campaign against Japan. One night, sleeping in a guest house, I had a dream: Kim Jong Suk carried armfuls of books into a spacious room and told me to read them as I liked, adding that I would not be able to read them all in my lifetime. I awoke from the dream and told my comrades about it. They interpreted it as meaning that I would be President. Interpreting the dream in this grand way, joking, for some minutes, they said I would be very lucky in the future, and congratulated me.

On my return from Moscow I told Kim Jong Suk about the dream. Smiling, she said it was a good omen.

As the months passed, the memory of the dream grew dim.

However, Kim Jong Suk did not forget it. When we were living in a house at the foot of Mt. Haebang after the liberation of the country, she filled the shelves of my study with books and asked me to read them to my heart's content now that the country had been liberated. At her request, she and I posed for a souvenir photograph. The photo still exists.

It may be said that Kim Jong Suk devoted all her life to me. Even after marrying me, she considered me as Commander, Premier and as the foremost leader. The relationship between her and me was that between the leader and the led, between comrades. She always said she was a soldier of the leader. She never addressed me in familiar terms; she only said "General" or "Comrade Premier

One day after liberation, some women journalists called on her to introduce her to the public.

She only said to them: "A fighter's life is enshrined in the history of his leader. Please write more about General Kim Ii Sung."

I think one can detect her exceptional personality in these words.

She passed away after experiencing nothing but hardships all her life. I felt so heartbroken at this, I strapped a watch to her wrist when bidding my last farewell to her. Could I repay her lifelong devotion to me with a watch? Or could I assuage the grief of losing her by such an action? Nonetheless, I would not have thought of doing it had the watch been an ordinary one with no story to it. It was a watch which had endured remarkable events.

One year my grandmother said to me that she needed a ladies' watch and asked me if I could buy her a good one even though it was expensive.

I was puzzled at my grandmother, who had lived all her life without even a wall clock, all of a sudden wanting a ladies' watch, and a good one at that.

I bought such a watch, and took it to my grandmother. I asked her what she needed it for.

"I heard," she said, "that you got married in the mountains without any fine presents or a feast. This weighs heavily on my heart. A long time has passed since you returned from the mountains, but I haven't arranged a party for you nor have I had clothes made for you. So I want to have Jong Suk wear a watch. I would be happy if she wore a watch."

The watch Kim Jong Suk took with her when departing this world was the very same one.

My grandmother's affection for her grandson's wife was really deep. This affection also represented that of my father and mother, who had died long before.

However, I did nothing for her. She had arranged a birthday party for me, though simple, every year, but while living with her for nearly ten years after our marriage, I had not arranged one for her. She had not even allowed me to mention her birthday.

As I felt sorry about having done nothing for her, I offered her a glass of wine when I dropped in at my old house for lunch on the day the Republic was founded, saying, "All these years you have taken so much trouble to look after me, but so far I have done nothing for you; I have only given you trouble. Today I wish to offer you a glass of wine."

She said, "What do you mean by saying that you have done nothing for me? You gave me wonderful presents by founding the Party, the armed forces and the Republic! You have made my lifelong wishes come true. I have nothing more to wish for."

In the year after Kim Jong Suk's death, women veterans collected money and presented it to the Party, asking that her grave be renovated. When the project started, I visited her grave on Moran Hill, and found that a steel fence, stone facing and granite steps were being built.

I said to the women veterans working at the construction site: "Please don't take offence, but look at those houses over there. People are still living in those small houses. They lived shedding bitter tears in the past, suffering hardships, but they are not yet leading decent lives. We have not yet reunified the country. If Jong Suk knew you were decorating her grave with granite slabs in these circumstances, how sorry she would be for the people! If you really want to pay tribute to her, you can plant trees and flowers around her grave and, when you recollect her, bring your children here to have a rest and look after her grave. This is the way to express your true feelings for her. Stop the project at once, and send those granite slabs to other construction sites."

Though she dedicated her all to the well-being of her comrades and fellows all her life, she did not leave a single penny or any property for her son and daughter. The money she spent came out of my salary and the house and furniture she used all belonged to the state.

If there is any heritage she left with us, it is that she brought up Comrade Kim Jong IL to be the leader of the future, and presented him to the motherland and the Party. You say I brought him up to be my successor, but in actual fact the foundation was laid by Kim Jong Suk. This is the greatest service she rendered for the revolution.

On her last day she sat Kim Jong IL by her side and told him to support his father loyally and inherit and consummate his cause. This was her last will. Three hours later, she breathed her last.

I still frequently recollect her. She wore chima (the traditional Korean skirt) and jogori (the traditional Korean jacket for women) for several years. For some reason, however, it is more often in military uniform than civilian attire that she appears in my mind's eye, mostly shivering from cold, as she did when she came to me with my clothes she had dried in her bosom.

It is still heartrending for me to remember how she looked.

From Chapter 23 "In Alliance With the International Anti-Imperialist Forces," Part 1 "The Anti-Japanese Revolution"

Listening to the “ Song of Comradeship”

Life goes hand in hand with song, and vice versa. Out of many songs, the Korean people are fond of singing the “Song of Comradeship” which calls for remaining unchanged even for a moment in the pledge one made before the leader on the road of revolution one should follow rain or snow.

Everywhere—at great construction sites leaving behind the first traces of the new century, at dam construction sites of hydroelectric power stations, at cutting faces thousands of feet underground, in smelting workplaces, on the fields, in fishing villages, and so on—this song is giving impetus to the advance of the Korean people, shaking the world of our era.

One day, after supper I sat before the TV set to watch it. Just then the solemn tune of the “Song of Comradeship” was ringing out of it. Along with the text of the song, appeared on the telescreen one after another the blinding snowstorm raging in the vast Paektu plateau, the sacred place of revolution, a sea of thickly grown trees spreading far and wide, the clear and blue water of Lake Samji, etc. This song makes us look back upon the history of the Korean revolution which has kept winning victory after victory, surmounting many harsh trials and proudly think of the 21st century when we will win even greater victory.

Relations of trust and love, such as having the same idea and purpose and sharing fate with each other have been formed between the leader and the soldiers and among the soldiers— this comradeship is a precious tradition which has been taken over and carried forward continuously in the annals of the Korean revolution; On looking back upon the Korean revolution, it started with gaining comrades and was cut open and emerged victorious by giving scope to comradeship. The first generation of the Korean revolution including Kim Hyok and Cha Kwang Su were all brought up by President Kim IL Sung with the warm comradeship of justice and passion. Recorded in the history of the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle are the great leader President Kim IL Sung’s such comradely trust as: “You are Kim Hyok and I am Song Ju (Kim IL Sung—Tr.)” and such an epic of comradely obligation of the soldiers enough to set one’s blood stirring as: How can we betray him who believed in us and showed affection for us even if the prospects of the revolution are ambiguous? We will die, following Comrade Commander, even if we meet our end.

The soldiers have the same idea and confidence and value love and obligation as their own lives. The invincible strength and the indomitable will having achieved such a single-hearted unity rendered it possible to defeat the Japanese imperialists and accomplish the cause of national liberation, bring about the beginning of downhill turn for the US imperialists in the Fatherland Liberation War and step up socialist construction in the postwar days, surmounting all trials and weathering out all upheavals.

Leader Kim Jong IL is working hard to creditably take over and carry forward the revolutionary cause which was started in Mt. Paektu, regarding comradeship as the red flag of the Korean revolution and as the immutable revolutionary lineage. He has been leading the Workers’ Party of Korea and the Korean People’s Army for several decades, considering our people and KPA soldiers to be his comrades and bestowing unbounded trust and love upon them.

“I am dying, but happy as a king, for leader Kim Jong IL will remember me. I want you to be his soldiers and his true comrades rendering devoted service to him generation after generation!” said an official to his children at the last moment of his life. His last words reflect the noble ideological and mental world of the Korean people who consider the leader to be the life and soul and the dearest comrade of the revolutionary soldiers.

As a harmonious whole is formed between the leader and the soldiers and they are firmly united with warm comradely love and obligation, we Korean people could fight on gallantly in defiance of the imperialists’ despicable machinations to blockade and stifle our Republic and win consecutive victories and follow up the “Arduous March” which they started in inexpressible grief over the death of the fatherly leader President Kim IL Sung, with a “cheerful advance.”

When idea and purpose are coagulated with comradeship nothing can break it. Comradely love and single-hearted unity are our most precious wealth and the most impregnable strength. That is why leader Kim Jong IL says that he is very fond of the "Song of Comradeship" and sings this song very often.

In the new century, too, the Korean people are filled with a determined will to build a powerful and prosperous socialist state in this land through comradely unity, singing the "Song of Comradeship", and are dynamically accelerating their advance in the first year of the new century.

The Korean people are thinking deeply over the demand of our age that however long and rugged the road of the revolution may be, they should remain revolutionary comrades to the end, without changing the pledge they made before the revolution and the leader at the time when the road of the Korean revolution was being opened up.

When everyone is afire with comradely love and obligation the might of single-hearted unity is strengthened one hundred times and one can push his way through any narrow rugged path in whatever adverse situation. Comradely love is powerful firearms which meet the enemy's strategy of strength with our strength and is an invincible and valuable sword for building a powerful and prosperous socialist state.

The more we listen to this song, the greater become our strength and courage. Entranced at this song, we think over again and make up our minds:

"We tens of millions of soldiers will always be the comrades of leader Kim Jong IL, follow him invariably and carry on the revolution to the last, singing the 'Song of Comradeship'."

When tens of millions of people follow our sacred revolutionary road, keeping step with one another, the building of a strong and prosperous nation and the reunification of Korea will be accelerated.

Han Pong Chan

Literature College Opened

Recently the Literature College was opened in Kim IL Sung University, the highest edifice of learning

It keeps the subjects of the preceding Korean Linguistics and Literature Faculty such as linguistics, national classic literature, library science, literature and journalism; new subjects are poetry, fiction, play and juvenile literature. It also has well-staffed research sections, befitting a linguistics and literature.

It will produce hundreds of young, able literary men every year.

As it is engaged in professional writing education, students are enrolled from among newspapers and radio, discharged soldiers, and promising active correspondents of literature, graduates from senior middle schools all over the country who are acknowledged to have creative abilities.

With the establishment of the college the major centre of the nation has become able to bring up reliable writers in large numbers.

Baton

Now the baton of the Korean revolution has passed on from the old to the new century and the Korean people are making a vigorous first-year march of the new century with the resolution to make a wonderful start.

This year's joint editorial of the newspapers. of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean People's Army and the Kim IL Sung Socialist Youth League stipulated that the baton the Korean people should keep a firm hold of in the revolution, is the red flag which is the embodiment of the spirit of the forerunners of the revolution.

The red flag is the direct representation of President Kim IL Sung's will and leader Kim Jong IL's aims.

In retrospect, in the early 20th century when Korea was overcast with the national downfall, there were many flags raised by patriotic-minded people, including independence movement workers. Some made a claim of the welfare of the nation and the people; others called for rejection of the Western and the Japanese forces; one of them was the flag of the March 1 Uprising which drew even young schoolgirls—to say nothing of the grownups—who stood by the flag in the face of losing arms cut off by the bayonets of the Japanese troops and police. All those flags were finally downtrodden by the Japanese military boots only to be spotted with the tears and blood of the people, let alone satisfying the ardent desire of the nation.

It was when the fate of the Korean nation was doomed that President Kim IL Sung raised the red flag of the revolution. The flag carried the programme of the Down-with-Imperialism Union—founded by the President in the early days of his revolutionary activities—to repulse the imperialist Japan with the Koreans own efforts and build an ideal society of the humankind on the Korean soil free from exploitation and oppression. With the emergence of the flag which indicated the way for the Koreans to follow, the nation came to have their original red flag of the revolution.

President Kim IL Sung later often recollected the days when he had raised the red flag. He said with deep emotion that the red colour of the flag was the true representation of the Korean people's spirit to fight for the revolution to the last drop of their blood.

He made sure that the red flag had been floating high throughout the period of his leadership of the Korean revolution and that the flag was held higher whenever faced with ordeals.

President Kim IL Sung is still with the red flag, adding energy to the revolutions

It is leader Kim Jong IL's fixed determination to consummate under the uplifted red flag the revolutionary cause of Juche started and promoted under the flag.

At the closure of the last century the red flag was confronted with a serious challenge; many nations who had been building socialism pulled down the red flag in the early 1990s. The red flag of socialism was at the crossroads; the problem was what flag the progressives should hold in the 21st century.

It was just at this juncture that Kim Jong IL put forward the slogan "Let us give full play to the spirit of socialist Korea under the uplifted red flag!" and called the entire nation to the implementation of the slogan. He made the song "Let us uphold the red flag" shake the whole country; he inspected the old battle-fields of the anti-Japanese war in the Mt. Paektu area in the northern tip of the country despite the rigours of winter and proposed to intensify the education in revolutionary traditions, and stressed the need to invariably maintain the red flag of revolution; he taught that if the enemy made an offensive, they should make ten or a hundred counteroffensives, and thus keep the principle of holding fast to the red flag at any cost.

Under his guidance the Koreans performed heroic feats in socialist construction and national defence in the days of the "Arduous March" and the forced march. The young people, masters of the 21st century, trained themselves into reliable builders of the new-century nation.

In the difficult days a lot of creations came into being, like the Youth Hero Motorway, the Anbyon Youth Power Station, and the Kwangmyongsong Salt Works.

The Korean people are now bringing the revolutionary forerunners' beautiful dream into reality on the land the forerunners had regained. They still vividly remember what President Kim Il Sung had said at the secret camp in Mt. Paektu during the days of the anti-Japanese war. He remarked: "We must fly the red flag until we build a new Korea and establish an ideal society of mankind free from exploitation and oppression on the liberated country. Our intention is to encourage the generations to come to invariably keep the red flag which we unfurled in Mt. 'Paektu."

His words are, and will be, alive in the hearts of the Korean people.

EXPLANATION OF THE JUCHE IDEA (2)

What Is Our World Like?

In the previous issue of our magazine, we introduced the philosophical principle of the Juche idea.

The Juche idea clearly izidicated the viewpoint, attitude and stand to the world, placing man at the centre for the first time in history.

In the present issue we are going to introduce the viewpoint to the world in the part of the Juche-based outlook on the world.

Leader Kim Jong IL said:

"That the world is dominated and reshaped by man is a new viewpoint on the world in relation to man."

The world is made up of man and the surrounding world, that is, nature and society.

The Juche idea considers that man is the master of everything in the world and the world is dominated and reshaped by him.

Man is the master of our world. It is not so long since man emerged in the history of nature covering a period of hundreds of millions of years. The world existed even before the emergence of man, and it had constantly evolved, in line with the law of. its movement.

After the emergence of man on the globe, the world has come to have its new history of its own development. In other words, man, who makes history on his own, has come into being in the world which was a unified body and an aggregation of the material lives maintaining their existence through their adaptation to the objective world. Accordingly, the world has come to have new spheres —man and society— in addition to the world of nature itself.

It is only man who is active purposefully and consciously in the world. It is also man who makes the world the object of his activity.

For example, the object of labour, the means of production and man are all the constituent factors of production. But their positions are by no means the same. Technical means can do nothing if there is no man who handles them, and they cannot be otherwise than instruments of man's activity. That is why man alone can be the master and undertaker of production. Success or failure in production is affected by man's activity.

The same may be said of the world. Although it has man as one of its constituent factors, the world cannot bring about any change excepting the simple and spontaneous development in the history of nature and the value of its existence itself is meaningless.

As it has man as its master, the world can have its own true value and meaning and, further, turn itself into one serving man.

Our world is dominated and transformed by man.

That the world is dominated and reshaped by man means that it is in the subordinate position obedient to man and that it changes in keeping with the desire and demand of man under his active influence.

Before anything else, the world is an object which is dominated by man.

Man is a social being with independence, creativity and consciousness and uses the things and phenomena of nature for satisfying his material needs and uses social relations for fully ensuring his social life, unlike those natural, biological beings that merely adapt themselves to natural environments. In other words, man keeps on developing himself by means of making the world obedient to him.

In the real world there are objects which are not

Cows and Chickens

Biologists say that cows as and we see today were wild oxen that were tamed into a domestic 10,000 years ago chickens were wild ones that were tamed into a domestic fowl in the Indian region nearly animal nearly 5,000 years ago.

under man's domination yet but there can be no objects which man can hardly control.

With the growth of man's independent demand and creativity the domain of the world serving man is expanded more and more. This means that the world continues to develop in the direction of serving man much better.

Human history shows that in the whole process of development all things and phenomena in nature and society gradually came to serve man effectively and much more. Things in the realm of nature have become valuable materials for human life and the forces of nature which exerted destructive influence upon man have become the sources of energy. All this proves that in the world where we live everything comes to serve man better.

Besides, the world is a passive existence, an object of transformation, which is reshaped and changed by man.

So long as man's action is not exerted, the interaction and the process of motion of things that form the world are spontaneous and blind. However, owing to man's active influence, the world changes purposefully and consciously, going beyond the scope of simple spontaneity and, is gradually reshaped into one more useful to man as days go by.

Basing himself upon a scientific understanding of the surrounding world, man actively cognizes the law governing its motion and development. On this basis he creates new things that can hardly be made by the law governing the motion of nature and uses them. Unlike the animals, man transforms the world in his favour. Such an active influence by man causes the world to be reshaped gradually in conformity with his demands and interests. Therefore, with the development of society the extent of man's transformation of the world increases constantly. This is the law-governed process of the development of history.

For example, the beasts that excited only terror to man at the initial stage of his emergence came to be used gradually as materials for man's dietary life and later they were tamed by man to be used even as means of production.

And efforts are being made to conquer space by means of "man-made stars," namely artificial satellites, and use materials of new energy developed there. These show that the world is being newly changed into one existing for man and serving him and that it is being "tamed" by man.

As mentioned above, the world where we live today is not one simply existing for itself but one where we, human beings, are its master and which serves its master and is being dominated and reshaped by him.

The viewpoint to the world newly clarified by the Juche idea enables us to have a scientific understanding that man is the only master and the transformer of the world and to have firm confidence that he is sure to win in the sacred cause of remaking the world.

It is just in this idea that we see the dignity and the great strength of man.

Juche Idea Study Group by Taekwon-Do Performers in Guyana

President Kim IL Sung's ,Juche idea study group was formed in Georgetown in February Juche 81 (1992). Since the chief started the study and dissemination of the Juche idea together with colleagues at his Taekwon-Do school, the number of adherents of this idea has been on the steady increase among the younger generation. Today the number totals several thousands.

One of the main purpose of their study of this idea is to make a contribution to promoting the understanding and unity among the nations and to achieve a genuine peace and social progress.

Founding of ARF—Start of New History of Unity

May 5 is a meaningful day indelible in the memory of the Korean people.

This day 65 years ago, President Kim Ii Sung established the Association for the Restoration of the Fatherland (ARF).

The ARF was a mass revolutionary organization capable of rallying, organizing and mobilizing the whole Korean nation to the national liberation front.

In retrospect, due to the Korean people's failure in achieving unity, the national liberation struggle and the early communist movement in Korea in the early 20th century were disrupted and ended in failure.

The communists and nationalists, who had been estranged from each other due to their differences in isms and assertions, belatedly recognized the necessity of their unity and formed the Singan Association as their united front organization but it was dissolved a few years later.

In the early days of his revolutionary struggle President Kim Ii Sung clarified the truth that the revolution emerges victorious only when the revolutionaries go deep among the people, rally them and rely on their strength. In addition, he put forward the idea of uniting into one the broad anti-Japanese patriotic forces of different social strata.

At the meeting of the leading members of the Young Communists League and the Anti-Imperialist Youth League held at Kalun on June 30, ‚Juche (1930), he proposed the line of the anti-Japanese national united front as one of the Juche-oriented lines of the Korean revolution.

While energetically leading the struggle to implement this line in close combination with the anti-Japanese armed struggle, he led the work to form the ARF as a permanent anti-Japanese national united front organization onto a higher stage.

On this basis he called the inaugural meeting of the ARF in May 1936 in Donggang. Present at the meeting were the military and political cadres of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army and representatives of different social strata from the homeland—workers, peasants, teachers and Chondoist delegates.

At the meeting, he made public the ten-point programme, rules and inaugural declaration of the ARF.

Filled with great joy and excitement, those attending the meeting made a firm resolve to fight on to carry out the tasks and elected Kim IL Sung as chairman of the ARF.

The main characteristic of the ARF is that different from the temporary united front association of political parties and organizations formed in some countries, it was a permanent united front organization which rallied broad masses of people in one organization with Kim Ii Sung at its centre.

The movement of building the organizational network of the ARF started at the foot of Mt. Paektu spread to the whole area of Manchuria, to every corner of Korea, and even to Japan like a prairie fire.

It developed into a powerful organization with a membership of more than 200,000, which aroused all the Korean people to a resistance struggle against the Japanese aggressors.

With the foundation of the ARF, the Korean people were able to have President Kim Ii Sung as the centre of unity and leadership, and create a true appearance of a genuinely patriotic, revolutionary and powerful united front organization for the first time in the history of the Korean nation.

Today in our country the centre of the great national unity has successfully been taken over by leader Kim Jong IL.

It has been a long time since the single-minded unity of the whole society, the highest form of unity, was achieved by him in Korea.

Nor is this all. He is wisely leading the Korean people's struggle to bring earlier the day of national reunification by putting into effect the ten-point programme of the great unity of the entire nation elucidated by the President.

As the cause of the national liberation was accomplished with President Kim Ii Sung at the centre of the unity of the whole Korean nation, so the morning of national reunification is sure to dawn under leader Kim Jong IL's guidance.

"Our Shop Manager", "Our Deputy"

People call Choe Yong Nam at the March 25 Factory in the capital "our shop manager," "our deputy".

He is the manager of the ball and roller workshop at this factory and a deputy to the Pyongyang city people's assembly.

Smart-looking, sturdy build, broad face looking honest-minded, pushful eyes... He gives people a good impression and is faithful to his duty as a shop manager and a deputy.

He is 44 years old this year. He became shop manager in Juche 85 (1996), five years ago. He comes from ordinary stock. After discharge from military service he was assigned to this factory in Juche 72 (1983). He studied at the correspondence course of Kim Chaek University of Technology, training himself through working life. For years after university graduation he worked as a designer and researcher.

He was good at work and was trusted by workers and the factory appointed him as shop manager.

When he began to work as shop manager, the country's economic situation was very difficult due to the persistent moves of the imperialists to isolate and stifle it and consecutive natural disasters. The factory's situation was the same. Because of the lack of equipment and materials, the factory was having a hard time in normalizing production. He thought to himself. "The whole country is making an 'Arduous March' to overcome difficulties, closely united behind leader Kim Jong IL. At this difficult time officials' stand and attitude, setting examples in all work, and organizational ability are all the more important. It is the duty of a citizen to know the dearness of the country and share his destiny with it..."

He made technical innovations, encouraging workers and tapping inner reserves. He remade equipment and made belts with substitutes, thus saving a lot of materials, giving a great profit to the state and helping to put all machines in full operation. He introduced a new automatic temperature regulator to the electric furnace and improved the quality of steel and ensured continued production.

His shop thus carried out their plans without fail. It fulfilled last year's plan at 102 percent and overfulfilled its January plan by 30 percent and is making continued innovations every month, upholding the slogan "Let's open our way through the new century in the spirit of the victorious 'Arduous March'!" put forward in the joint editorial of the Party, army and youth newspapers.

The country nominated him as a candidate for the local power organ in Juche 87 (1998) to make him serve people better as he is an official from worker stock and a citizen who works faithfully for the country with a high sense of responsibility. All electors cast yes votes for him.

He became a "busier man" and was true to his duty as a deputy. He always pays close attention to the work of government agencies and industrial enterprises in his constituency and the life of inhabitants there. He is now helping the technical reconstruction of an honoured disabled soldiers' factory in every way according to the national policy of modernization and frequents food rationing agencies and stores to help their supply services.

Learning that the dwellers in the neighbourhood unit No. 56 of Phyongchon-dong No. 2 were having, a hard time due to pump trouble, he took a measure in cooperation with a water service station to fix it up.

This is why people call him "our shop manager" and "our deputy". Their respect and love for him are growing daily.

Ki Yong Sam

Deputy Choe Yong Nam (third from right) looks well after inhabitants in the district under his charge.

A "Reminder"

Some time ago, I visited a friend's apartment in Phyongchon District in Pyongyang.

He was very glad to see me after a long separation and warmly welcomed me, but he was going to leave his home. He said that he would go to the clinic and asked me to wait for him a while. I asked him who was ill but he pointed at a note on the desk.

The note surprised me. It was a "reminder", which read: "To Kim Pok Jin, apartment No. 5 on the second floor of neighbourhood unit No. 92. Come to the clinic unconditionally until 8 p.m."

He said to me anxious to know why. For several days there had been a preventive vaccination at his neighbourhood unit. But he could not get it as he was on a local business tour. The family doctor had come to his house three times as only he had not taken it. Some time I had not taken the regular preventive vaccination unavoidably in good time and had been criticized by the family doctor and the neighbourhood unit chief but I had thought little of such "reminder".

102-year-old woman Thae Gum I in Tongan-dong, Central District, flashed across my mind. When I visited her flat last year she said that she had experienced misfortune and happiness and told me about her bitter past.

Before national liberation on August 15, 1945, people sold all family property to pay doctors' bills but owed vast debts. They ascribed their short life to their destiny and their children were expelled from school, unable to pay tuitions. In the stateless years the' reminder was a call of our people to subhuman life and death.

But today our people live without knowing the hateful reminder.

In our country people are demanded for the registration of all school-age children at schools, for getting supply of new school uniforms tailored to children's forms and for examinations for entrance to universities, with the information of the date and hours of the examinations.

People are urged to' get medical care for health at sanatoria with their tickets and to move into new houses...

In view of all these the family doctor's "reminder" was not the mere demand of the family doctor for vaccination. It was the demand of our Party for our people's long life in good health.

The "reminder" of the responsible family doctor made my heart full.

Choe Pong Chol

Korean Proverbs

An illiterate friend is as good as an enemy.

This is a moral teaching that an illiterate friend, though intimate, may fancy himself to be a helping hand, but spoil things and bring you irretrievably serious harm.

A perverse man will not be blessed.

This teachers that an ill-natured person can hardly have good luck or enjoy benefit.

The stone cries when the mountain cries.

It laughs at person who follows others without his own discretion.

Profile of a Teacher

TIME flows to add more and more memories to you, and of all the memories the one of your teacher must be most memorable. Then what's the profile of a teacher of our times like, the one which is reflected vividly in the apple of everybody's eyes? It may be like the one of Merited Teacher Kim Sok Ryol, principal of the Pyongyang Raknang Senior Middle School No. 1.

* * *

One of these days Kim Sok Ryol received a letter from his disciple named Kim Chol Man who is now serving the army. Part of it reads:

" How are you, dear Mr. Principal?

"Many years have passed since I left for the post of national defence. In these years I have grown both physically and spiritually. Of course there were times I was faced with difficulties. What sustained me was the dear lights in my native city of Pyongyang and the memories of you Mr. Principal who had implanted patriotism in me for the six years, taking care of me like a gem. I still remember vividly: The determination to live like the heroes who had defended the country, which I made in front of the scorched, bomb-and-shell-fragments-ridden tree which was brought from the Hero Height 1211, and the determination to live in such a way as our parents had done during the period of the great Chollima upsurge, which I made on the stage of 'Pride in Our Parents'. I also remember the meetings for explanation of wartime songs, film shows, oratorical gatherings, meetings with heroes and the like. In the course I as a member of the young generation, came to know the value of the country, though vaguely. I wished I would be a true son of the country, so I posted myself at the national defence position... The day when my friends and I left the school amidst warn farewell you told us that our pre sent happiness and hopeful future are all impossible without the country. Your words I cherish deep in my heart; I am going to live up to your words every moment of my service."

* * *

A page of maths teacher Kim Ye Ran's diary reads:

"Today I ranked the second in the national teaching contest. I am happy. And I remind myself of what I was like in the past.

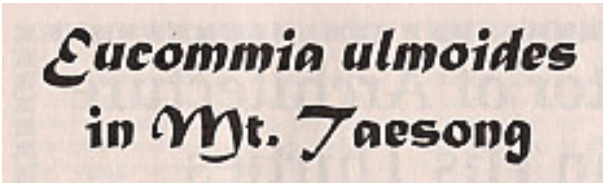
"The past year I fulfilled the teaching schedule but the students were not so good at maths—which I taught— as was expected. Why on earth?

"One day, after inspecting my lesson, the principal called me and talked, 'Miss Kim, I am afraid there is a problem in your teaching method. I'd like to talk to you about it.'

"Days later I was sent for again by the principal. I went to his room to receive collections of materials and experience necessary for maths teaching. Demonstration lessons, experience swapping and other occasions proved worthy in making up my weakpoints. Now I learned the method of giving reasonable explanations of maths problems and developing the students' intelligence. In one school term the students' records increased a grade on average and a dozen of them achieved successes in national maths contests. It is all blanks to the painstaking efforts of the teaching staff including the principal that scores of students oecame winners of the 'July 15 Honour Student'. Many of our students have become scientists, echnicians and inventors in different fields of the country, who are the pride of our school."

Kim Sok Ryol among his students.

Eucommia ulmoides in Mt. Taesong grows at the roadside northeast of the Central Botanical Garden at Taesong-dong, Taesong District in Pyongyang.
Four saplings of Eucommia ulmoides had been planted in 1959. They grew for more than 40 years to be 50 or more trees in one area.



The tree averages more than 15 metres in height and nearly 90 centimetres in circumference.
It has been registered as a natural monument and is currently in fine preservation by the state.
In the past this tree could be found in some areas of our country. But it disappeared owing to the predatory atrocities of the Japanese imperialists when Korea was under their rule.
However, thanks to the forest preservation policy of our state after the liberation of Korea(August 1945), saplings of this tree had been planted extensively in Mt. Taesong and many areas south of Pyongyang, including Ongjin, Paechon, Sariwon and Wonsan.
This tree is a simple-leaved plant. Leaves are out alternately along the stems and they are roundish and jogged and have sharp edges. In spring small pale green flowers bloom out.
Its fruit is 2.5 to 3 centimetres in length and is shaped like a round wing and 5 to 7 fruits dangle down from a blossom.
It is used as a valuable drugstuff. The bark, in particular, is highly efficacious in alleviating pain and is used for the treatment of neuralgia and arthritis. Besides, it is widely used as a tonic, medicine for hyperpiesia and a styptic. Its timber is good for furniture-making, as it is hardly eaten by worms.

Hospital Under Construction

Several hospitals have been built this year or are currently under construction.
The construction of buildings Nos.1 and 2 of the General Koryo Medicine Hospital has been completed on Munsu Street in the East Pyongyang area.
In this general hospital there are hospitals for surgery, and internal diseases, research institutes for accupuncture and physical constitutions, and so on. Well-furnished sick wards can also be found.
Pyongyang citizens and local people can receive treatment in this hospital. It is expected that research into Koryo medicine will be conducted more actively.
A general dental hospital is under construction on Thongil Street in Pyongyang.
As a national hospital for dental treatment, it is now being built up splendidly so that the treatment of dental diseases of working people can be conducted at a higher level in close contact with a dental hospital in every province.
The construction of Hadan Hospital under the Ministry of Public Health is under way in Jongju City, North Phyongan Province.

* * *

"A teacher is literally the man who is engaged in teaching, so he ought to do anything in a way that befits the educator; he should say and behave as befits a model for the students." This is a usual word of Mr. Kim Sok Ryol.
His school has an after-school study site which is a favourite resort of the students. There at the site every flower and tree have name tags of the students who are in charge of the plants, and formulas and foreign language words are hung here and there. Hills of rocks of different geometric figures, midget waterfalls and ponds are also found there. These are what were built at the principal's initiative.
Busy as he is with his professional schooling, he exerts himself in writing stories which is a great hobby of his.
His stories and poems like the story "Pure Mind" and "Great Heart" are fine materials for educating the students. Many of his writings are a favourite of the students.
He developed his school into the Model Physical Training School and twice Honoured Red Flag School. Many students from the school received Kim IL Sung Youth Honour Prize and Kim IL Sung Children Honour Prize.
Kim Sok Ryol was awarded the title of Merited Teacher in Juche 78 (1989).

Doctor of Architecture in His Thirties

His extraordinary aspiration and fervent spirit of inquiry enabled him to acquire plenty of knowledge on the field of steel-pipe concrete and form his own views.

After his graduation from the university he studied for master's and doctor's degrees at the graduate school of the university. He was very grateful for his learning and felt all the more keenly the great responsibility he bore for society.

He put a lot of effort into confirming the result of his research through experiments. He could not be satisfied with only the numerical value, for his research was connected with the lives of people.

He made experiments thousands of times, each time changing qualities of concrete and steel, the thickness of steel pipe, the length of block, the size and shape of burden, the thickness of detachable section and the condition of supporting the burden.

This was all done in the most difficult period of the "Arduous March" and so it was not easy to get cement and steel pipe needed for the experiments. He didn't shrink back, but braved through all difficulties and continued his research work, thinking that fully discharging his duty as man and as a scientist is what his conscience dictates and is his moral obligation for repaying the deep care of the state.

Workers at the Central Heating System Management Company and the Pyongyang Block Factory and his friends helped him as much as possible.

Old scholars also gave him their selfless assistances.

Receiving his doctoral certificate amidst warm congratulations, he said:

"I think, I owe my success in research work more to the warm care of our homeland than to my zeal and talent.

" I am determined to unstintingly dedicate my youthful days to our country, our motherland that has brought me up to be a scientist."

He is now expected to gain another success in the field of construction engineering next year.

Yun Yong Gum

He has taken another important research task.

Twice Labour Hero Pak Jin Sok

Born Scaffold Worker? Pak Jin Sok, chief of the scaffolding workshop of the WPK members' shock-brigade, is called a "horn scaffold worker". This must be a compliment of his ingenious conception and invention, his awfully challenging manner of work.

It was over ten years ago when the May Day Stadium was under construction on Rungna Islet in the Taedong River. The stadium is 207,000 square metres in total floor space; the playground alone is 22,500 square metres in area, and the seating capacity is 150,000 people. The stadium's magnificence lies not only in the great measures. The parachute-shaped pent roof and the arched semi-circular cantilevers belong to the original phase of the modern architectural art.

They must still have a vivid memory of Pyongyang's May Day Stadium where the sacred fire of the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students was lit. The stadium is like either a big parachute falling from the sky or a full-blown magnolia flower floating over the blue waters of the River Taedong.

The most difficult problem in the construction of the stadium was how to build the roof. The method of the roof building would determine the direction and period of the whole project. Pak Jin Sok thought hard about proposed ideas; the method of assembling trusses with the use of large gantry cranes, the one of setting provisional arches on which to assemble trusses, and others were all disadvantageous in keeping the roof building ahead of other schemes; worse still, they wanted costly supply of hundreds of tons of structural steel, hundreds of cubic metres of timber and tens of thousands of man-days. He finally advanced the method to assemble arched sloping cantilevers through rotation, which helped to go through the bottleneck in the project. His method was to combine the extra-large cantilevers on the ground before fixing them altogether through the compound-pulley system.

Another new idea of his was the method to assemble the large-sized trusses on the slopes of arched cantilevers. By the method they made complete sets of trusses on the ground before setting them on the different slopes of the cantilevers. Still another invention of his was the one of assembling the large trusses by moving them at the right angle with the use of 25-ton turret cranes. The original idea made it possible to place the pipe-shaped projected trusses, 83 to 96 metres long each, on the cantilevers. It proved quite conducive to saving a lot of labour, steel materials and timber and cutting the period of construction. Marvelling at Pak who was fixing the last 192nd truss on the towering scaffold moving tike an eagle in spite of the biting winter cold, they asked how he bad produced such a bold and wonderful idea.

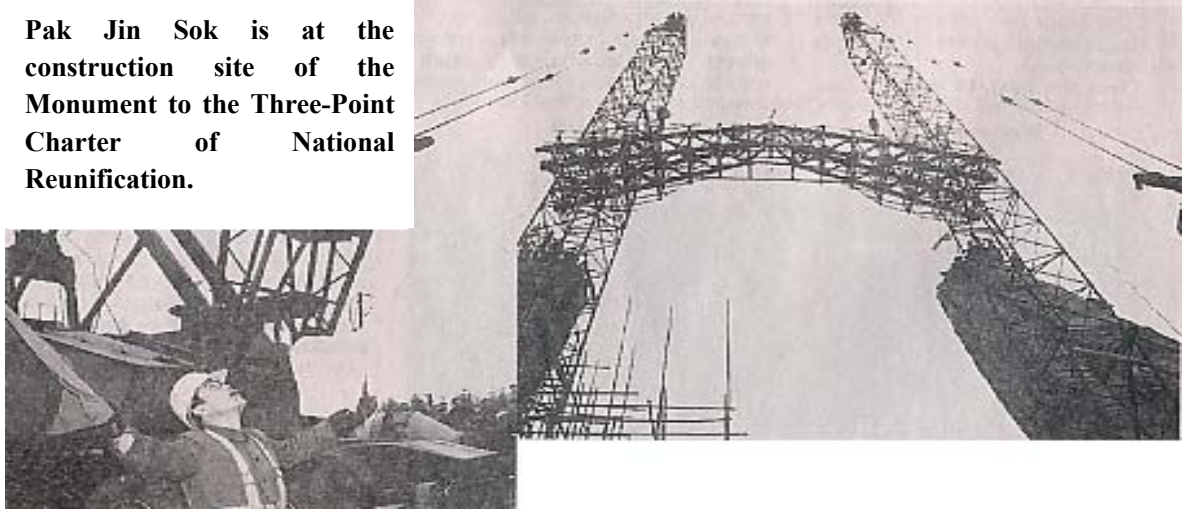
He replied, "We are members of the shock-brigade of the Workers' Party of Korea, aren't we? If we were unable to fulfil tasks given by the Party, how could we be members of the Party as well as the shock-brigade?"

Man of High Calibre. The following happened in a construction site in Pyongyang. A difficult task was to lift a bundle of large steel beams by a steel tower. Pak Jin Sok, the author of the job, proposed a bold idea of resetting the gigantic steel trusses from the roof of an old building to the new building. By the idea it was to erect a steel tower at the centre of a number of trusses and use it to lift the 400-ton-heavy steel trusses 37 metres high and turn it at the right angle and fix it to newly planned architectural line which was nine metres ahead. Therefore, if there would happen different working speeds in several winches, the inevitable imbalance could force the tower to lean to one side, causing an unavoidable accident. In order to prevent such a thing he decided to adjust the balance by combining all the ropes of pulleys. The winch operators controlled the speed, their hands perspiring with stress. The six trusses rose inch by inch. Now they had to be turned at the right angle and moved nine metres ahead right to the architectural line. Pak set himself up inside the tower body and watched the turning point. His energetic direction ensured the successful fixture of the trusses on the appropriate positions.

* * *

Pak has received scores of certificates of invention in his over 30-year career of scaffold worker. He has become an internationally acclaimed inventor through worthwhile efforts of erecting monumental structures in various parts of the country.

Choe Pong Chol



Pak Jin Sok is at the construction site of the Monument to the Three-Point Charter of National Reunification.

Exalting the Honour of the Motherland

The Pyongyang City Sports Team in the Phyongchon District, Pyongyang, was established 45 years ago, that is, in April Juche 45(1956).

At that time our country was conducting the postwar rehabilitation and construction in an economically difficult situation. However, the state decided to set up a sports team named after the capital city in order to develop the physical culture and sports of the country, and had preparations made for more than a year. On this basis the establishment of the sports team was announced.

Since then this sports team steadily followed the road of progress, exalting the honour of the country.

Leader Kim Jong IL gave it on-the-spot guidance on two occasions; in June Juche 61(1972) he visited the team and gave instructions as to the orientation and the ways and means to develop it, stressing that as the capital city should set an example for the whole country, so the sports team should go ahead of the other teams in all fields of sports activities, including training.

The team has grown into one of the best and powerful ones in our country.

Over the past 45 years it has produced three twice world champions (Kim Chol Hwan and Kim Yong Sik in wrestling and Ri Hi Bong in weight-lifting), two world champions and more than 60 Asian champions.

The medals it has so far obtained in major international contests number 1,748 in all —550 gold, 549 silver and 649 bronze medals.

In this process 12 People's Athletes, 120 Merited Athletes and more than 400 masters of sports have emerged.

It has also produced a large number of holders of state decorations, including Labour Hero and winner of Kim Il Sung Prize.

In Juche 75(1986), it was awarded the National Flag Order First Class, and in Juche 85(1996) the Kim Ii Sung Order.

Now the athletes and coaches at the team are all invariably engrossed in training so as to lift up the honour of their motherland.

The team trains players of 19 sporting events including basketball, football and marathon and is equipped with sports facilities necessary for these events.

It pays primary attention to implanting a strong sense of patriotism in the mind of every athlete, and makes positive efforts to put training on a scientific basis. In addition, measures are taken to complete our own technical tactics in keeping with the world's trend. Coaches are striving to further improve their qualifications, and demonstration lectures of each item are given and technical conference and meetings for exchanging experiences held frequently.

Little wonder that progress is being made in many events, such as basketball, football, volleyball (female), table tennis, judo, wrestling, weight-lifting (female), gymnastics, calisthenics and figure-skating day by day.

Last year the team carried off about 30 per cent of the total medals at each of the national sports contests, including both the Paektusan Prize and Mangyongdae Prize sports contests, and national championships.

Marked progress is being made in basketball. People's Athlete Ri Myong Hun, player No. 15 of the Uroe basketball team who is reckoned as one of the world's best basketball player, also came from this sports team. The main members of the national football team are those from this team.

Sports aces produced by this team include Kim Jung Won in marathon, Cha Hyon Hyang, who is a 48 kg category Asian champion in female judo and Jon Myong Hui in female weight-lifting. The team ranks among the best in the items of figure-skating and calisthenics as well.

All members of the sports team are now training themselves harder than ever before with a determination to achieve good results at every event of the world championships and the Asian championships both slated to be held this year.

Ki Yong Sam

Women footballers train themselves hard.

Receiving Birthday Table

I was born in Pyongyang and I so much loved River Taedong since my early days. For this reason, I nurtured a dream of a wide sea with my growing stature. I wished to surely dominate the sea. To this end I had to learn the art of navigation. At that time, the senior seamen's training school in Jinhae was the only school of its kind, and I knew it was extremely difficult for Koreans to enter it. Nevertheless, the aspiration for learning drove me to the school. Overcoming harsh discrimination and contempt, I at last became a student. Studying hard rewarded me with qualification of second mate.

National liberation (August 15, 1945) infused a new spring of life into me who was only a colonial intellectual. I devotedly worked upholding President Kim Ii Sung's nation-building lines. In this course, I was admitted to the Workers' Party of Korea. The day I joined the WPK, I resolved to live an honourable life as the leader and Party wanted.

The Party assigned me the task of training marine experts. Later I set out on the road of national reunification, before I was imprisoned in south Korea. The prison life was a continuation of trials and misfortunes.

Helping and leading one another, we overcame all the trials. My comrades and I staged strikes demanding improved treatment, particularly the hunger strike.

Still unforgettable is the fact that we were shedding tears of joy in prison upon hearing a report of the President's external activities.

President Kim IL Sung and leader Kim Jong IL were the guardian of our destiny and hope.

When we heard that Kim Jong IL started to work at the WPK Central Committee, we raised cheers in ecstasy of delight. Confidence in him was our will. As the days went by our faith became firmer. We developed a strong fighting spirit saying, "Make the enemy pay for the blood we shed!" The day of coming out of prison after 37 years of imprisonment, I replied to a reporter: "The 37 years were the period I sustained myself with nothing but faith. I did not want to dishonour my family in the north with the brand of the traitor's wife and children."

I will not bring disgrace to my beloved wife waiting for her husband or to my children waiting for their father; I will live an honourable life becoming a member of the Party, a citizen of our Republic and father of my children—this inspired me to live unbendingly.

After we left prison, members of Mingahyop (Family Movement for Realizing Democracy) and other numerous kind-hearted south Koreans looked after us former long-term prisoners. The day before our returning to the north, they, offering us foods they had prepared with sincerity, heartily wished us happiness. They were really unforgettable, nice fellows.

Until that time, I had never dreamed that such great happiness had been waiting for me.

The motherland had made remarkable development. I marvelled at the grandiose and graceful appearance of Pyongyang and felt greatly proud that the motherland was so powerful.

I found my family overflowing with happiness. Two sons had grown up to be presentable men. The elder son had graduated from the Pyongyang University of Medicine and was working at an important post of a national organ. The second son was a serviceman. My only daughter who used to suck her fingers when I left home, had studied at two universities and was working as a manager of a big enterprise.

Loving cares embosom me from all around. Kim Jong Il's concern for me is permeating in everything about me, from the underwear and socks, expensive coats and overcoats, to quilts and blankets.

Since the word "happiness" came into being in the world, a lot of happy stories have been told. However, I am proud that I am the happiest man.

Indeed, my motherland, the bosom of leader Kim Jong Ii who holds all the Korean people in his embrace, is the home of happiness and the sea of overflowing happiness.

Hong Mun Go, former unconverted long-term prisoner

U Yong Gak has been presented with his 70th birthday table.

My Motherland Is the Sea of Happiness

MEN OF STRONG FAITH

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Former unconverted
Long-term prisoner

Firm Spiritual Mainstay

When looking back upon the days gone by, one finds that there were sweets and bitters in one's life. This seems to be said of me who is now aged 77. After tasting the bitters of life for several decades, I have become able to enjoy happiness today.

I led a 36-year-long prison life. The mere thought of it makes me sick. I was thrown into jail in the prime of my life, that is, at the age of 36, and was set free in the sunset of my years, that is, at the age of 74. No suitable words can I find to express my feeling except the word "sick". But never before did I regret for that period of 36 years even a bit. On the contrary, I feel proud whenever I think of that period.

It is not easy for man to remain true to his faith and revolutionary principles. If one is to surmount all manner of misfortunes and sufferings not for one or two days and one or two months but for several decades one should have an iron will.

However, one cannot remain true to one's faith and will merely because one wants to. Only when there is the firm mental mainstay, the love and trust of one's comrades, can one remain true to one's faith and will to the end without the slightest vacillation.

This is a precious truth which I and my comrades found out through many years of prison life. Our long prison life can be said to be the history of bitter tear-provoking struggle based on comradeship.

I still remember the days when an operative team newly formed in prison was carrying on its brisk activities to force us to recant.

At that time that operative team threw us unconverted long-term prisoners into cells one by one and sent in blood-thirsty fellows. They pounced upon us and said to us threateningly, "Recant! If not so, we will kill you."

Our comrades were sacrificed in this difficult struggle.

Nor is this all. The prison did not look after the patients suffering from various diseases on the ground that they were in special cells (cells, for unconverted long-term prisoners – Tr.).

Afire with an adamant resolve to save the ailing comrades, we spent many days in thought to find suitable ways and means for it.

After groping for it we found a way for treating them. It was to apply acupuncture.

We made "needles" by sharpening the ends of wires on the concrete floor and tried hard to make ourselves familiar with curative methods, while pricking the tissues of our bodies with these needles by our own hands.By relying on the technique we had acquired with superhuman efforts we succeeded in saving the lives of our comrades.

The most difficult thing was to bear hunger. We were supplied with a small amount of boiled barley during the mealtime. But we conceded it to our comrades. Even though we skipped our meals we felt joy if we could allay the hunger of our comrades.

We had to go through all these hardships, but remained faithful to the ideas and trust of our Party and the leader to the last.

President Kim IL Sung restored the country to our people and freed us from the fetters of colonial slave labour. Under his warm care I grew into a member of the Workers' Party of Korea. To live up to the favours of the President who cared for my destiny, I gave my all to the endeavours to accomplish the cause of national reunification.

That is why I could surmount

Km In Su with his family members.

all sufferings in jail keeping the pledge I had made on the day and come out of prison proudly as an unconverted long-term prisoner.

On the day of release from prison three years ago, I pictured in my mind the day when we unconverted long-term prisoners would be able to enjoy happiness, taken into the embrace of our Republic. To my joy, this cherished desire was realized.

Leader Kim Jong IL took a measure to -bring us former unconverted long-term prisoners under his loving care and make all of us stand at the zenith of happiness.

At the time when the matter of sending back the former unconverted long-term prisoners was made public as one of the provisions of the June 15 North-South Joint Declaration last year, we shed tears of gratitude, looking up at the northern sky. And we came back to our Republic last September.

He made sure that we were all awarded the National Reunification Prize and medal, and that we were supplied with costly tonics so that our bodies destroyed in prison life could be restored to the original state. In addition, he saw to it that we were provided with good flats furnished with splendid living conditions.

Formerly, we were called "breathing fossils". But now we have regained the joy of life, enjoying ever-growing warm affection.

It can be said that invaluable comradeship is precisely our lives.

The mainstay of comradeship has become firmer, going through harsh ordeals. It will remain unshaken even if the road ahead is rugged and the wind howls frightfully.

Kim In Su
Former unconverted
Long-term prisoner

Folk Game

Seek-the-Hare

It is one of the folk games played by Korean children. A child who was selected as the "tiger" tries to find among the children another child, who was designated as the "hare".

From olden times Korean children have played this game without dividing themselves into two sides.

The game begins with choosing the "tiger". There are several ways in doing so but in general it is decided by "stone-scissors-paper".

Children who are to take part in the game gather together. Then one shouts "no scissors" and all others shout "stone-scissors-paper", showing only stone and paper. In this way they repeat it several times and the one who loses to the last becomes the "tiger".

Then the "tiger" sits in the middle of them and all the other children gather around the "tiger" and the game starts. The "tiger" shuts his or her eyes and a child is set as the "hare". The child who has become the "hare" gets up and touches the back or the body of the "tiger" by the hand and walks around it once and joins the other children stealthily. The children shout "It's all right." Then the "tiger" opens his or her eyes and sets about finding out the "hare," studying the facial expressions of the children.

During the play children try to hinder the "tiger" from finding the "hare" in every way; they themselves sing songs or make various movements, but they are required to do just as the "hare" does.

They give zest to the game, singing songs merrily. This causes the "tiger" to get irritated, unable to make head or tail.

The "tiger" wins the game if it finds out the "hare". When the game is over the "hare" should meet the demand of the children. But if it fails to find the "hare", then the "tiger" is compelled to satisfy the demand of the children.

When the first round of the game is over there starts a new round in the same manner.

The seek-the-hare game is one of the pleasant folk games which are conducive to fostering the power of observation, judgement and attentiveness of the children.

Special Spray Painting

ONE of these days *Korea Today* reporter Song Thae Jun visited the Light Industrial Art Studio in the downtown street in Pyongyang to see the inventors of the special spray painting.

Reporter: The public is anxious to know about your spray painting. Would you tell about the difference between the existing spray method of painting and your new invention of spray painting? And what about the practical value and features of your original painting?

Kim Yong Guk (chief of the spray painting section): It doesn't seem that the painting by the use of spray has so long a history worldwide. As far as our country is concerned, it began to be introduced in the 1980s and got on a full scale in the early 1990s. It can be said that the spray has been a method of the industrial art that serves the manufacturing sector. It has developed a lot, and now in some countries there are attempts to create the independent spray painting: still delicate parts are done with the help of conventional painting utensils.

But the one we have just made perfect is a new original painting. It needs no utensil other than the spray to apply pigments on a sheet of paper fixed to the painting board. The spray painting embodies the Korean painting techniques on the picture marvellously. It is a great help to depicting the rich store of the people's ideological and sentimental traits. It also makes it possible to increase the quality of the industrial art of our country and improve the packing of products, thus elevating the standards of the public civilization.

Ri Pont Su: That's not all about the practical value of the spray painting. It provides harmonious unity of colour tones which is an important factor in painting. More-over, by the new method, we can almost double the tempo of creation.

Reporter: Please tell me about the motive of the invention.

Jo Kwang Il: I'm sure it is none other than our chief who initiated the painting. He finished the Pyongyang University of Fine Arts in Juche 81(1992) and began to work here. Then he nursed the hope of creating the spray painting. Five years ago he started his creative work in real earnest. He set it as his major task, for he had been convinced in the long period of work of the truth that he could make paintings with the spray without difficulty. Later he made some pictures of the kind which earned a favourable comment. The studio organized a group of some spray painters to intensify the job.

Reporter: Every creation is no easy. I am afraid there must have been many hardships in those days.

Kim Yong Guk: Surely. The course of creating the. spray painting was very much ridden with difficulties. As it was a raw job, we had nowhere to turn to learn from. Worse

Spray painting "Waves".

Engrossed in making a spray.

Popular Knitted Goods Factory

The Tongdaewon Aeguk Knitted Goods Factory is a knitwear production centre widely known at home and abroad.

In October last year this factory celebrated its 30th birthday.

At the time of its inauguration the factory had only 14 horizontal looms, six processing machines and more than 30 women workers, but today it has changed beyond recognition.

Its building area is now nearly 5,000 square metres, a more than elevenfold increase as compared with that in the early days of its commissioning. It is furnished with more than 500 efficient machines, including electronically automatic horizontal looms.

The variety of goods has increased from more than 20 to over 70 and high-quality knitted goods of different forms and materials are produced in large quantities every year.

Most of the products are supplied to the people at home and the rest shipped abroad.

The factory has so far been under contract to companies in 25 foreign countires including China and France.

The proportion of first-class articles is more than 99.7 per cent at present. Therefore, they enjoy popularity in foreign markets. Their demand is on the increase with every passing day.

"The secret of the growing demand for our products lies in the fact that the skill level of the workers is high and production processes have been modernized," said Pak Yong Chol, who has been working as the manager of the factory for over ten years.

The workers are mostly women, and many of them have worked for 20, 25 or even 30 years. Their skill level is so high that they can operate the horizontal looms with their eyes closed.

Their average skill grade is now 4.5.

The factory is making great efforts to improve the workers' skill level. And as part of its endeavours it organizes pass-ontechnique meetings and competitive shows of products occasionally.

Of particular note in the modernization of the factory is that the technical production method based on computer is currently being widely introduced.

The computer-controlled production technique preparation system completed last year can be cited as a typical example. This system, the fruition of joint research by workers and technicians at the factories and researchers from the Academy of Sciences, has brought about a radical change in the way of work at the technical preparation department.

This system has made it possible to draw designs and measure the norm of materials consumption per unit by computer, do away with the former complicated work processes, ensure the accuracy of measurement 100 per cent and save a large amount of materials.

In addition, a computer-controlled knitwear design programme has also been introduced into production, thus reducing the time for design by half and increasing labour efficiency several times.

"In hearty response to the call of the joint editoral of this year for refashioning all factories and enterprises on the basis of modern technology, we are going to computerize the knitting process in keeping with the trend of the world.

"We have laid material and technical foundation solid enough to fulfill the task. So the day is not far off when the task will be carried out," said the factory manager. *Yom Song Hui*

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still, some people had apprehensions about our ability. But we did not yield. Rather we braced ourselves up. Through hundreds of times of exercises, we mastered how to handle the spray; now we became able to make even a thread-like line which needs a marvellous expertise and equally spray colours on the panel. In this way we perfected the creation of the spray painting.

On August 4, Juche 88(1999) Kim Jong IL had a look at the photographs of three of our spray paintings. He spoke highly of the pictures and proposed to set up a professional section of the new painting.

Later a spray painting production was organized with the existing spray painting group as its mother. The production has so far turned out scores of pieces of high artistic value such as the "Unanimous Respect", "Fruit Full of Love", "Like the Wind" and "Waves".

The paintings we produced last year drew much attention from the audience at the national fine art exhibition.

On the strength of the achievements we will intensify our work of spray painting and thus make a contribution to the development of the nation's fine arts.

A view of the finish workshop

Quality is their primary attention

Invigorating agitation is carried on at shops.

Some of their products.

Blooming Social Benefits

In the DPRK there are now happening good things in succession which make the Korean peopie more grateful to their socialist system.

Vigorous endeavours are being made to implement the task put forward by the joint editorial of this year, the task of building many a number of rest homes, recuperation centres, hospitals and other cultural and health services and modem dwellings everywhere in the country and thus making the workers and the peasants benefit from them.

Plans have been made to build a lot of dwelling blocks of different forms in the capital city of Pyongyang and various relevant measures are being taken to finish the construction at an early date.

Other cities and counties across the' country are following the suit.

The construction of new rest homes is well under way at celebrated spots across the country including Mt. Ryongak in the suburbs of Pyongyang, Mt. Chilbo in the northern Korea, Lake Yonphung in South Phyongan Province, Lake Manphung in North Phyongan Province, Mt. Jongbang in Sariwon City, Mt. Kuwol on the west coast of Korea and the Pakyon Waterfalls in Kaesong City.

Well under way as planned is also the work of making preparations for refashioning existing rest homes such as the Kobangsan in Pyongyang and the Songdan in South Hamgyong Province.

The construction of modern hospitals is promoted as well: the General Hospital of Koryo Medicine has been completed on Munsu Street in east Pyongyang and the construction of a general dental hospital is being accelerated on Thongil Street on the banks of River Taedong.

The project of expanding the old, single-story Hadan Hospital in Jongju City, North Phyongan Province under the Ministry of Public Health into a four-story one is near completion.

In retrospect, the last several years were an unprecedentedly difficult period for our people. The allied imperialist forces manoeuvred to stifle our country which was adhering to socialism and even natural calamities befell us, compelling us to fasten the belts. Factories would interrupt operations frequently.

All this, however, could not curtail the social benefits of the people: a large number of modem and comfortable dwelling houses have been newly built everywhere in the country, for example, houses for 550 families in Kangnam County, Pyongyang, those for 500 families at the Phothae Integrated Farm in Samjiyon County, Ryanggang Province, those for more than 300 families in Usi County, Jagang Province and houses for thousands of families along the Youth Hero Motorway, and all of them have been allotted to the people free of charge.

The people also continued to benefit from free education and free medical treatment under the invariable tax-free system.

The state took responsible care of the lives of the helpless old people, disabled persons and children. It also made sure that social preferences were given to disabled ex-soldiers and other people of merit lest they should have any trouble in their life.

Rice was invariably distributed to the people at the price next to nothing although a single gram of it was precious, and newly-born babies and their mothers, in particular, were on newly-set bigger rations.

Kuwol, Jongbang and Chilbo mountains, Ryongmun Cavern and other scenic spots were built up for better recreational activities of the people. Despite the difficult economic situation, ceaseless was the stream of children who went to scenic spots and camps; vigorous were the efforts to provide the people with better conditions of their life and rest. Still unforgettable is the national exhibition of prize designs held in summer last year. On display were nearly a hundred designs for rest homes, holiday resorts, service complexes and health centres—produced by provincial town-planning offices and other professional designers.

The designs for all sorts of graceful, modern buildings named "Lake Chon", "Star", "Affection", "Happiness", etc., made the beholders learn more keenly leader Kim Jong IL's infinite loving care to provide our people with a more pleasant life despite the current shortage of everything.

The Korean people say proudly that the socialism is their life and blood because they are living under such a warm care under such a good system.

The socialist motherland, which is opening its way through the new century in the spirit of the victorious "Arduous March", will bestow much more benefits on its people.

Pleasant holidaymaking at the Kobansan Rest Home

Ri Jong Am Defends Walled Town of Yonan

It was in 1592, soon after the outbreak of the Imjin Patriotic War, that Ri Jong Am was appointed as a senior commanding officer of Hwanghae Province following his formation of a volunteers' army. He went to the walled town of Yonan to check the northward advance of the Japanese aggressors. There he knew that the local administrator had already fled and that the soldiers began to disperse in all directions after hearing about the approaching invaders.

The situation was very critical. Something had to be done to keep control; otherwise Heaven knew what would happen to the town.

Ri stood in the doorway to the wall and spoke out to the breaking troops, 'Wait a moment. Look, I'm Ri Jong Am who was the administrator of this town in the past. You may go, but I order you to do me a favour before you go."

Soldiers stopped and gathered in front of him.

"You see," Ri continued, "those sheaves of hay beside the bivouac. Bring them here in front of the wallgate and pile them high."

He urged them over and over again. The soldiers reluctantly moved the hay and made a mountain at the gate.

Then Ri took a bow in one hand and an armful of arrows with the other. He climbed the mountain and sat on the peak. He called out to the soldiers who were looking doubtful, 'Now you may go anywhere you want. But I ask one of you to stay and set this hay on fire when the Japs begin to climb the wall. I won't desert the wall even if I would die in battle: I won't let the Japs trample our land even if my body would be burnt to ashes."

Hearing his words none of soldiers moved. They were rather touched by his bravery. They all knelt down and begged for pardon. One of them said, "We've intended to leave the town not because we are afraid of the Japs or because we value our own lives. It's just because we've no commander to direct us. Now we want to fight under your command."

All the soldiers were determined to stay and fight to defend the wall. Their determination was quickly announced to nearby villages whose people assembled in the town with spears and swords in hand.

Ri Jong Am led the soldiers and the volunteers to repair the wall and dig ponds, making a hasty preparation for the imminent battle.

Finally the day of fighting drew up. The Jap commander Kuroda Nagamasa launched an offensive against the walled town with the force of 3,000 troops.

Until that time the town failed to get fully ready to repel the enemy. The projected repair of the wall was still unfinished; all they kept in store as weaponry were some poor rifles, dozens of kilograms of gunpowder and bows and spears. Nevertheless, the soldiers and the volunteers in the town fought desperately under Ri's command.

When the Japs attempted to climb the wall like shoals of ants, they fired a volley and poured boiling water over their heads. Then the enemy capped their heads with bundles of grass to ward off the boiling water. The defenders now turned to fireballs. The climbers then made wooden cases to put over their heads to avoid fireballs. The Koreans' answer was showering rocks and stones.

The life-and-death resistance of the defenders made a mountain of enemy corpse. Those enemy who survived quit the battle in haste.

The victorious report Ri sent to the government was really praiseworthy. The report mentioned the dates of the Japanese offensives and retreats and the number of casualties of his side. Nothing else was written. Ri had inspired his soldiers and volunteers to the struggle and performed a great feat in the combat, yet he mentioned not a word of his achievements.

As his contemporaries spoke of his meritorious service, "Anyone could engage oneself in the struggle to defend and repulse the enemy, but it is unlikely that anyone can keep oneself from boasting success. It is a thing that he who has a single-hearted love of the country can do."

May Korea Be Reunified as Early as Possible!

When watching the scenes of emotional reunion of separated families and relatives in the north and the south of Korea through the telescreen, I also could hardly repress strong emotions surging up within me.
That night I could not fall asleep for a long while.
Something that happened more than ten years ago flashed across my mind.
One day I received an unexpected letter from a chief accountant in the city of Wonsan, Kangwon Province.
He said in his letter:
"My name is Sol Jin Thaek. I am former Volunteer Corps member and hail from Seoul. I had a younger brother whose name was the same with yours. He also had a taste for literature like you. I found the name which was just the same with that of my younger brother on the list of prize winners in the sphere of short story which was made public after national contest for the creation of literary works. 'Is that man not my younger brother? It is likely that my younger brother also joined the Volunteer Corps and is now living in the north,' J thought to myself at that moment. So I now write this letter to you."
I felt sorry for him, because I had no elder brother and Seoul was not my hometown.
He must have been looking forward to the day of the country's reunification, picturing in his mind his parents, brothers and sisters in his hometown. And he must have been excited, because he feels that his own flesh and blood he can meet right now seems to be living nearby. How can I throw cold water on him by replying that I am not his younger brother?
I would put down my pen while trying to write to him several times.
One day I received another letter from a soldier of the Korean People's Army.
His name was Sol Jin Su. He said in the letter; "I found your name in *Rodong Sinmun.* This has made me think that you may possibly be my uncle, that is why I now write this letter to you. My home is in Pyongyang. Whenever New Year's Day comes round, my father who came over to the north by joining the Volunteer Corps would speak of his parents, brothers and sisters in his hometown, looking up at the southern sky. My father came from Seoul. He would say that his younger brother was fond of literature. So it may be possible that my uncle has also been taken into the embrace of our Republic by joining the Volunteer Corps during the war."
I was placed again under such a pitiful condition as failing to come up to that young soldier's expectation.
I was in a fret and in agony. At that time an idea flashed into my mind like lightning. It was that they might be relatives.
After checking up their letters I, learned that they were just the same in their hometown.
Full of joy, as if I found out my own relatives, I sent reply letters to both of them.
A few days later, their letters came to me almost simultaneously. Through their letters I came to know that the father of the soldier and the chief accountant in Wonsan had the relationship of second cousins.
So I informed them of the address of the other side by means of sending the chief accountant's letter to the soldier and the latter's letter to the former.
Not long after that, letters full of joy came to me from both of them. They lengthily wrote about their joy of having found out their relatives, saying in unison: "Formerly, we thought that we would not be able to meet each other before the reunification of the country." In the last part of their letters they asked me to be on intimate terms with them like relatives. The soldier went so far as to invite me to visit his home on his father's 60th birthday.
I felt like meeting them. But I failed to make time to do so.
I always repented of having failed to accede to the soldier's invitation at that time.
With the passage of time, I felt ever-growing regret.
So I had been thinking of calling on them by choosing an appropriate time in future. But even before my plan was put into effect the historic North-South Joint Declaration was made public and tear-provoking reunion of separated families and relatives realized.
I thought of the unforgettable Sol family overnight. I wonder whether the heroes of the touching scenes on the telescreen were the members of the Sol family or not. Even if they were not that family J felt no regret. It was because they would also be able to meet members of their family and relatives in the south in near future.
On the day when 70 million fellow Koreans send up rousing cheers "Long live national reunification!" all over Korea, the members of the Sol family will also shed tears of joy, tears of deep emotion, hugging each other.
All our fellow compatriots wish to see a reunified Korea. When Korea is reunified, their misfortunes and sufferings will also be removed.
May reunification be realized as early as possible! We 70 million Koreans are all looking forward to it with impatience.

Writer Sal Jin Ki

Let's Make Concerted Efforts

All the fellow Koreans in the north, south and abroad have greeted the first year of the hopeful 21st century with their hearts burning with an ardent desire to reunify Korea.

The reunification cause of the Korean nation handed down from the previous century is now at a great turning-point.

In retrospect, last year was marked with momentous events worthy of special mention in the history of the Korean reunification. It was a historic year when the whole nation took a big step forward to achieve reunification.

For the first time since the division of the country and peopie, the two leaders of the north and the south of Korea met and had summit talks in Pyongyang and the North-South Joint Declaration was adopted. With this as a momentum, north-south relations are turning into new ones of reconciliation and cooperation from antagonism and confrontation. Statesmen, business people, men of culture, sportsmen and pressmen had contacts, while high-ranking military officials had talks. A south Korean tourist party visited the Mt. Paektu area, media representatives had been to Pyongyang, and meetings of families and relatives separated in the north and south are currently in progress.

The history of reunification is being started.

Now is the time for the Korean people to vigorously advance hand in hand with each other towards the future when Korea will be reunified and become ever more powerful and prosperous.

This was proved by the 2001 meeting for opening the door of reunification by concerted efforts of the Korean nation held in Pyongyangin January this year.

The meeting called upon the 70 million Koreans to set this year as a year of opening the door of reunification by the efforts of the Korean people, designate the period from June 15, the day of publication of the North-South Joint Declaration, to August 15, the day of Korea's liberation, as a period of June 15-August 15 movement for promoting national reunification, and celebrate the first Korean liberation day of the 21st century with a nationwide grand reunification festival.

As pointed out at the meeting, the key to bringing radical phase this year in realizing the national reunification cause lies in thoroughly implementing the N-S Joint Declaration.

The basic idea, the nucleus of the joint declaration, is the national independence with which to solve the nation's reunion issue by the Korean people's concerted efforts.

It is defined in the first item of the joint declaration that the north and the south have agreed to solve the question of national reunification independently by the concerted efforts of the Korean people who are responsible for **it.** This reflects all Koreans' firm will to put an end to the history of national division and achieve national reunion by the united efforts of the north and south.

The national reunification is out-and-out for the sake of the Korean people and those who are responsible for the solution of the reunification problem are also the Korean people themselves. It is also the Koreans who demand reunification with vital interest in it and who will get much benefit from it. Only when the masters who crave for reunification join efforts, can the reunification issue be solved most rapidly and smoothly.

One's own nation and one's own fellow countrymen are the best.

Cooperating with foreign forces is a leftover of the old age of confrontation. Idea and system can by no means be at advantage over a nation. Even if Koreans in the north and south differ in their idea and social system they are fellow countrymen and even if their idea and social system are the same as those of foreign forces, the latter can never be depended upon.

All development following the Pyongyang meeting show that it is not the foreign forces, but strength of the Korean nation that can be depended upon and that if Koreans make concerted efforts hand in hand with each other, they can do anything and reunify their country.

Unity is the strength of a nation. Only a nation united in a body can carve out its destiny in any adversity and bring about prosperity and development.

The Korean nation's aspiration for reunification was not realized in the previous century, but no longer can it remain a mere wish.

Japan Emerges as a Dangerous Force of Aggression

The 20th century witnessed two world wars, many hostilities and unprecedented destruction and disasters.

Having greeted the new century, mankind at large 'wants to live in a peaceful world free from aggression, war, domination and subjugation.

But how does Japan behave itself?

In the past century it committed the most atrocious war crime. Owing to the Japanese militarists dreaming of world domination, the people in many Asian countries were compelled to suffer untold hardships.

Japan should have atoned without fail for the crimes it perpetrated in the past, from a sense of responsibility. However, it is pushing forward preparations for overseas aggression furiously, while evading atonement for its past crime.

First of all, the Japanese reactionaries are trying their hardest to invent a pretext for overseas aggression.

The typical example is that they are finding fault with our Republic. They are making a great deal of fuss about the fictitious "nuclear threat", "missile threat" and "an unidentified ship incident" and are tenaciously manoeuvring to make all this a fait accompli.

Meanwhile, at a ceremony held in connection with the setting up of a base of the Japanese Ground Self-Defence Force, Ishihara Shintaro, governor of Tokyo Metropolis, advanced such a preposterous sophistry as: it is very likely the people from Korea and the like and their descendants will start a "riot" in case "a disasterous earthquake occurs." Then he said that the "police is limited in ability" and that the SDF should be mobilized to give relief to the sufferers in such a case.

This is nothing but an open instigation of the Japanese to the recurrence of the massacre of innocent Korean residents in Japan as was conducted at the time of the great earthquake that hit the Kanto district in 1923; the aim is to create a social atmosphere for the enactment of a wartime act in an attempt to mobilize not only the force of arms of the police and the SDF but also all the manpower and material resources.

In addition, the Japanese reactionaries are trying to make their overseas aggression constitutional.

In February last year there started a formal debate over constitutional amendment at the Japanese Diet. This debate at Japan's supreme legislative body drew the attention of the world at once, for it was aimed at changing the present Japanese constitution which had once been called a "peace constitution" into a war constitution. However, the Japanese parties in power made much ado as if this parliamentary debate were an auspicious event of weighty significance. Some parties out of power also joined in the forging up of the war constitution. This is furnished by the fact that Democratic Party leader Hatoyama and Liberal Party leader Ozawa had tete-a-tetes with *TVAsahi.*

Properly speaking, Japan's "exercise of the right of collective self-defence" is prohibited by law. It is stipulated in Article 9 of the Japanese constitution that Japan shall not have combat forces nor shall it use armed force against foreign countries and join in such a military action.

However, Hatoyama insisted that the government should specify the matter of "exercising the right of collective self-defence" in the Japanese constitution, saying that Japan will not be able to make "an international contribution" to the full if the SDF's "exercise of collective self-defence" is not allowed. He said that the SDF should be renamed the Japanese armed forces by amending Article 9 of the constitution. Ozawa expressed his hearty approval for Hatoyama's suggestion.

The Japanese Kyodo news agency commented that the time has already passed when the debate on constitutional amendment was prohibited.

The Japanese Self-Defence Forces troops intent on war rehearsals.

The Japanese reactionaries have actually enacted law in time of war. The ship inspection act enacted at the Diet in November last year can be cited as a typical example. This act legally permits the SDF to control and overhaul foreign ships and use arms on the international sea routes and in the high seas.

The SDF has become able to conduct military action by mobilizing its airplanes, fleet and troops to any region or country on the plea of providing against emergency in the surrounding area.

In Japan the act on overseas troop dispatch was adopted and came into effect several years ago and the plan for the amendment of the self-defence act which was aimed at dispatching SDF planes abroad was passed through the Diet on the plea of "rescuing overseas Japanese in case of contingency." The act on providing against emergency in the surrounding area which was adopted and came into effect in 1999 restored the right of the armed forces of the SDF to participate in wars and battles.

The moves of the Japanese reactionaries to strengthen the position of their country as a military power and turn the SDF into an armed force of the first rank are also attracting attention.

They think that Japan's defeat in the past Pacific War resulted from its fragile military strength. That is why they are stepping up expansion of armaments and arms reinforcement. It is a long time since Japan's military expenditure exceeded one percent of the GNP which is regarded as the danger line. Last year Japan's war funds exceeded ￥5 trillion for the first time. The Japanese reactionaries have adopted a new mid-term defence power improvement plan (2001-2005) and decided to appropriate ￥25 trillion of war funds in the five years to come.

They are now accelerating the introduction of a new type of up-to-date Aegis vessels, fighter F-2, tanker planes, and so on and the building of carrier-type battleships.

Japan had more than 1,700 war-planes, over 160 vessels, 1,200 tanks and 6,000 guns of various kinds already in the mid-1990s. The Japanese SDF has already introduced several Aegis cruisers whose building requires more than one billion dollars each and is possessed of transport ships which can be used as aircraft carriers. Foreign news dispatches comment that the Japanese SDF is much better than the troops of any other country in military equipment, in the capitalist world excepting the United States.

The commanding system of the SDF is being improved constantly. The Japanese Defence Agency made public a plan to newly introduce a communication network for amalgamating the commanding and communication systems which are operated by the Japanese Ground, Maritime and Air SDF respectively. Reports say that it will be directly linked up with the official residence of the Japanese prime minister who has the right of command and control of the SDF and with the US armed forces in Japan.

The Japanese reactionaries who are pushing forward the work of making the armed forces modem, large and long-range ones are conducting war exercises in succession in league with the United States or single-handed.

Military demonstration and war rehearsals are being conducted not only in the ground, at sea and in the air but also in the centre of cities. Nuclear war and biochemical war exercises are also being staged.

A Japanese newspaper expressed astonishment, saying that "the land of Japan was totally converted into the ground for war rehearsal."

Last year the Japanese reactionaries made themselves appear to be striving for peace, prattling about the adoption of a declaration of breaking away from war and the announcement of a white paper on the arms reduction policy. But these are nothing but an artifice to cover up their real intention.

World and Asian peace and security may be destroyed severely in the new century as the Japanese militarists have emerged as a dangerous force of aggression.

The peaceloving progressive people should heighten their due vigilance against them.

Chonju Temple

This temple faces south on the midslope of the southeastern hill of Yaksandongdae one kilometre up the Yaksan Stream in Nyongbyon town, Nyongbyon County, North Phyongan Province. It stands against Yaksandongdae noted for beautiful landscape and pink aza: leas. It was built in 1684 and rebuilt in 1722 as a Buddhist temple of the middle period of the Ri Dynasty.

The temple consists of the main Pogwang Hall, the Chonju Pavilion and annexes. The main Pogwang Hall standing on a high podium is 10.28 metres long in front and 6.95 metres in side. It has a hip-saddle roof with seven outside capitals and eleven inside capitals assembled on ten columns.

The front door ribs of the hall are open-worked with geometrical and chrysanthemum patterns and its inside and outside are finished with beautiful paintings to attract the attention of people.

The Chonju Pavilion stands on its stone podium 2.5 metres high. It has wide floor in the middle that straightly stretches right and left and the ends of both sides protrude, which reminds people of three linked houses. It has a gable roof on two wing capitals.

The temple has paintings describing boating, resting, fighting and hunting people.

This temple was once used as a military command post. It adds to the beauty of Yaksandongdae and shows Koreans' high architecture and artistic talent.

Blue Sky to Humankind

FAMOUS Spanish painter Picasso presented a picture of pigeons to the peace conference held in Paris 52 years ago. Since then pigeon is regarded as a symbol of peace conference.

People wished to see only pigeons fly over the blue sky.

But how did the 20th century roll away?

The 20th century can be said to be a century when war and peace were entangled with each other.

The number of wars that broke out between 1900 and 1938 totalled 24. The typical one was the First World War (1914-1918). Thirty-six nations were involved in this war, in which 9.5 million people died, 20 million were injured, and 3.5 million crippled.

Those who had witnessed this bloody war realized that war did not make their countries powerful, but weakened them finally. So they wished not war but peaceful living.

Nevertheless, what did the Second World War (1939-1945) present to humankind?

It took a toll of 55 million people killed and 90 million injured, causing the devastation of the economy and the emergence of tens of millions of refugees.

The nations drawn into this war numbered 72; the money wasted during the war amounted to $1,500 billion. Having suffered the war ravage unprecedented in world history, humankind hoped that such a war would not break out again.

Picasso's pigeon picture was created in this period. He drew it, reflecting his mind opposing war and loving peace.

But did the world enjoy only peace after that? No. There were 130 big and small wars in the period between 1946 and 1979 alone.

These wars only left agonizing mental sufferings upon humankind.

Out of an ardent desire to live in a world free of war, humankind set up graven images and fought on to live in peace.

However, the Gulf War and Kosovo incident in the 1990s brought humankind poignant realization once again that the struggle for peace was not an easy task. The rocket missiles launched against Iraq by the US-led international military force caused a huge loss of materials and manpower.

The amount of loss Yugoslavia suffered from the aerial attack was £40 billion. It is said that it will take this country 40 years to reach the 1989 level of prosperity.

If we want to enjoy peace, we have a long way to go, but we must go along it without fail.

Reviewing the 20th century entangled with war and peace, humankind has realized that the only way to survival is not to pursue war but to unite for common development.

In 1999 when the 20th century was coming to a close, the representatives from European and pan-Atlantic nations gathered in Sarajevo where the First World War broke out and which was engulfed in the flames of war several times thereafter. They convened a meeting for the following century free of war.

Now humankind took their first step forward towards the 21st century free from war.

All the people hope that the 21st century will be a peaceful century when pigeons alone fly over the blue sky, not aircraft carrying mass destruction weapons.

Cooperation Between DPRK and UNICEF

The 2001-2003 master plan of operation was signed in Pyongyang between the DPRK and the UNICEF.

According to the plan, UNICEF will assist the DPRK for three years to come in education, children's nutritionand health and water sanitation.

The plan was signed by Choe Su Hon, deputy minister of foreign affairs and concurrently chairman of the UNICEF National Coordinating Committee of the DPRK, and by Dilawar Ali Khan, resident representative of the UNICEF.

For Solidarity, Cooperation and Common Prosperity

OPPOSING the imperialists' domination and subordination, solving disputes peacefully and strengthening solidarity and cooperation among nations to achieve common prosperity—it has become a trend of the times for the African countries at the dawn of the new century.

A firm resolution of the African peoples to build a new independent society finds its expression in the statements of heads of state and government of various countries in the first year of the 21st century.

In his new year address the President of Mozambique said that national prosperity is in the hands of the Mozambican people and called upon them to work diligently and carry into practice correctly the policies of the government in firm unity and with strong conviction on the future.

The President of Angola in his letter on the new year referred to the successes made by his government in the past year and called upon the people to do everything to achieve the peace, security and stability of the country.

The President of Tanzania emphasized that for the economic development of the country all the people work diligently breaking through valiantly every challenge they took up in the new year.

All this represents graphically the ardent aspirations and will of the people in this region to build a new Africa, independent and prosperous, taking their destiny in their own hands.

Aspirations of African countries for solidarity, cooperation, peace, stability and common prosperity are seen in brisk activities of regional communities.

An appeal to make more endeavours for the regional peace is made at the first parliamentary session of the West African Economic Community held in the capital city of Nigeria. The participants in it expressed concerns for the boundary disputes of west African countries and discussed measures to achieve regional peace.

In Arusha, a northern city of Tanzania, a ceremony was held to create an East African Community.

At the first summit of the newly-formed community comprising Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, the President of Kenya, its chairman, stressed that unity represents strength and strivings should be made to build a prosperous east Africa.

The creation of the East African Community is the achievement of pan-Africa and a historical event, General Secretary of the Organization of African Unity said, and emphasized that the community will play a big role in consolidating peace and stability in east Africa.

Those present at the 21st France-Africa summit conference exchanged views on the situations of many African countries and appealed to strive to restore regional peace and stability. The conference with the participation of heads of state and government delegates from over 50 countries debated on the debt of Africa, prevention of AIDS, information and communication technology and other matters.

All facts convincingly show that many African countries are making positive endeavours to build a new, independent society, strengthening solidarity and cooperation in reliance upon their own forces and in conformity with the demands of the times of independence, and are countering against the imperialists' manoeuvrings for "globalization".

The strivings of the African countries for solidarity, cooperation and common prosperity will surely bear fine fruit.

Diplomatic Relations Established

The official talks between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Spain were held in Madrid on December 22, 2000.

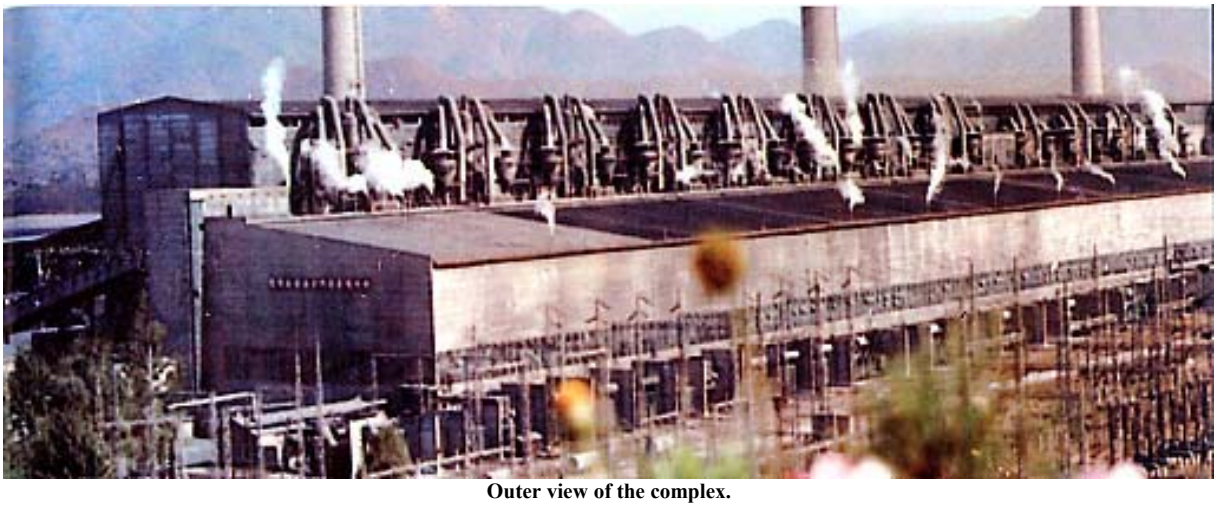
The talks came in the wake of the Spanish Foreign Minister's affirmative reply to his DPRK counterpart's September 2000 letter on establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The two foreign ministers exchanged letters in February 2001, which led to the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties.

Both sides agreed to put bilateral relations at ambassadorial level and accredit their Rome-based and Beijing-based ambassadors to hold the posts concurrently.

The agreement will create favourable conditions for developing bilateral ties in various fields and having in-depth discussions on matters of mutual concern on the basis of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

Recently, the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea established ambassadorial-level diplomatic relations with Canada, Belgium, the Netherland, Germany, Luxemburg, Greece, Brazil and other countries in the hope of developing relations of friendship and cooperation in all fields on the principle of mutual respect for sovereignty, non-interference in internal affairs and equality.



Outer view of the complex.

Generators Work to Full Capacity

The Pukchang Thermal Power Complex, one of the top power suppliers in Korea, is now proving its worth by making new upsurges in electricity production with the uplifted red flag of socialism in the spir it of the victorious “Arduous March”.

All the employees at the complex, whether he is a management officer or a worker or an engineer, know well that sure potentialities of increased production lie in close and timely checkups and modernization of the equipment. They pooled their creative efforts and resources, finishing full-scale overhauls of the boilers with success, technically remoulding the coal-pulverizing process and computerizing production processes. Hundreds of technical innovations were thus introduced, to ease the nation’s power strain.

Checking and repairs of facilities are on a regular basis.

Warm congratulations to workers of merit

Technical consultations are held on the field.

General power distribution office.

Trio **Buddhist Images**

The Yonga 7 Trio Buddist Images Againast a Shinning Back Board was made by Priest Yon from Koguryo's Pyong Raknangdong Temple in 539. The three Buddhist images are seated against a big shining back board. The relic is 32.7 cm in height; the back board 20.5 cm; the main Buddhist image 14 cm; and the seating platform 9.5 cm. The trio is a national treasure of Korea, and a model of the marvelous expertise of the country's Buddhist image sculpture.